IOWA BIRD LIFE

IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

Winter 2018 . Volume 88 . Number 1

SHOUT
SHARE
IT

IOWA BIRD LIFE

The Iowa Ornithologists' Union, founded in 1923, encourages interest in the identification, study, and protection of birds in Iowa and seeks to unite those who have these interests in common. Iowa Bird Life is a quarterly publication of the Union.

OFFICERS OF THE IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION (Dates indicate end of current term):
President: *Francis L. Moore* (2019), 336 Fairfield St, Waterloo, IA 50703-1628 (flmoore@forbin.net)
Vice President: *Pip Fisher* (2019), 14172 NW 130th Ave, Madrid, IA 50156 (pip@pipfish.com)
Secretary: *Rex Rundquist* (2018), 3131 Norman Dr, Sioux City, IA 51104 (rrundquist@aol.com)
Treasurer: *Mary Beth Hunt* (2018), 1201 High Avenue West, Oskaloosa, IA 52577 (mbh@mahaska.org)

DIRECTORS: *Tyler Harms* (2018), *Candace Havely* (2018), *Eric Ollie* (2018), *Diane Detlinger* (2019), *Kevin Murphy* (2019).

JOURNAL STAFF:
Editor: *Karen Viste-Sparkman*, 3925 Hillcrest Drive, Des Moines, IA 50310 (vistesparrow@gmail.com)
Christmas Bird Count Editor: *Christopher J. Caster,* 1813 Liberty Lane, Coralville, IA 52241 (cjcaster@q.com)
Field Reports Editors (Enter seasonal data at <www.iowabirds.org>):
Winter (Dec, Jan, Feb; deadline 3 March): *Francis L. Moore*, 336 Fairfield Street, Waterloo, IA 50703 (flmoore@forbin.net)
Spring (Mar, Apr, May; deadline 3 June): *Tyler M. Harms* 1517 Stafford Ave, Ames, IA 50010 (tyharms@gmail.com)
Summer (Jun, Jul; deadline 3 August): *Jim Dinsmore*, 646 Mallory Hill Drive, The Villages, FL 32162 (oldcoot@iastate.edu)
Fall (Aug, Sept, Oct, Nov; deadline 3 December): *Paul Hertzel*, 1432 East State Street, Mason City, IA 50401 (phertzel@rconnect.com)

STANDING COMMITTEES AND CHAIRPERSONS:
Library/Historical: *Hank Zaletel* (2018), 1928 6th Street, Nevada, IA 50201 (madowl@midiowa.net); *Candace Havely* (2020)
Membership: *Cecille Thompson* Membership Coordinator (N/A); *Karen Disbrow* (2019); *Douglas Harr* (2019); *Eric Ollie* (2020); *Matt Stephenson* (2018)
Projects: *John Cecil* (2018), 3505 Washington Ave, Des Moines, IA 5031 (jcecil01@gmail.com); *Billy Reiter-Marolf* (2019); *Joe Jungers* (2020); *Coady Lundy* (2021)
Publications: *Ann M. Johnson*, 5362 120th Avenue, Norwalk, IA 50211 (aj@hologrambirds.com); *Jim Dinsmore* (2018); *John Bissell*; *William Scheible* (2019); *Karen Viste-Sparkman*
Records: *Paul Hertzel* (Secretary, appointed by committee), 1432 E State St., Mason City, IA 50401 (phertzel@rconnect.com); *Jay Gilliam* (2017); *Ann M. Johnson* (2018); *William Scheible* (2019); *Karen Viste-Sparkman* (2020); *Paul Skrade* (2021); *Mark Brown* (2022)

Copyright 2019 Iowa Ornithologists' Union (ISSN 0021-0455), All rights reserved.

First record of a Bar-tailed Godwit for Iowa

Stephen J. Dinsmore

At about 1 p.m. on 5 August 2017 I stopped at the Pinchey Bottoms area of Red Rock Reservoir in Marion County to view the many shorebirds and other waterbirds that were concentrated in the drying pool. As I was scanning a distant flock due north of the boat ramp I noticed a larger shorebird that I immediately recognized as a godwit. The bird lacked the warm buff tones of a Marbled Godwit, so I initially assumed it was a Hudsonian Godwit. The bird was approximately 50% larger than nearby Lesser Yellowlegs, but still struck me as being on the small side for a godwit. It was also conspicuously white-bellied, and had a somewhat short-legged appearance reminiscent of a dowitcher. For these reasons I decided to watch the bird until I could confirm its identity by seeing the wings and tail. I ended up studying the bird from my initial discovery at 1:35 p.m. until I left at about 4 p.m.

Bar-tailed Godwit, Red Rock Res, Marion, 5 *August 2017. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.*

After more than 30 minutes the bird raised its wings several times, allowing me to see that the axillars and underwing were pale with very fine dark spotting. This confirmed my growing suspicion that the bird was a Bar-tailed Godwit. The bird then made a short flight directly towards me, allowing more views of the wings but only a poor view of the tail (it looked mostly pale). The bird was now much closer and I had extended views of it feeding with a large flock of mixed shorebirds, mostly Pectoral Sandpipers. The bird had a long bill (estimated at 3 times the length of the head) that was distinctly upturned and dark-colored with a pale, flesh colored base (approximately one third of the bill length). The head showed a darker cap and a faint, pale supercilium. The neck and upper breast were very pale buff, fading to a white belly and vent. The folded primaries were dark colored (appearing black at a distance), and created a horizontal line above the flank. The underwings were pale with fine dark spotting on the axillars while the upperwings were brown with what appeared to be a faint

pale stripe along the base of the primaries. The legs appeared dark-colored because of the distance; length was greater than those of a Lesser Yellowlegs, but not by much. I had many clear looks at the underwings, both when resting and in flight, and at all angles they were pale with fine dark spotting. The tail pattern was seen briefly while the bird was bathing and preening, and then very well during a couple of long flights. The rectrices appeared dull white with very faint lateral barring on the distal portion of each feather. The uppertail coverts were strikingly white, especially in flight. The bird did not vocalize.

On 6 August I returned to the site with a boat, relocated the godwit, and obtained much closer looks and photographs. I confirmed the head pattern and further noted that the eye was dark colored. The bill was bicolored with a pale pink or flesh-colored base that gradually darkened after extending to between one third and one half of its length. The bill was twice the length of the head as measured from photos. The neck had fine pale brown streaking with irregular rufous mottling. The rufous mottling extended onto the pale white belly, but the vent was entirely white. The legs were black with a hint of gray in good light; exact color was difficult to determine given that the bird was wading in mud. In flight, the legs extended to just past the tip of the tail. The undersides of the primaries were white and unmarked except for black tips while the secondaries were entirely white. I had much more limited views of the upperwings, which appeared medium brown colored with black primary coverts, a contrasting paleness in the flight feathers, white shafts to the outer 2-3 primaries, and black tips to the outer primaries. The tail pattern was seen well in flight and later in photos. The rectrices were dark gray with narrow white bars on all but the inner and outer pairs of feathers. The uppertail coverts were white with fine dark gray/brown streaks on the central feathers. At a distance, the uppertail coverts appeared mostly white and contrasted with the darker rectrices. On this occasion the bird also vocalized once when flushed, giving a loud, somewhat nasal, and high pitched "aah aah" call several times in flight.

On the basis of these features I concluded that the bird was an adult Bar-tailed Godwit in basic plumage. The patterned underwing linings indicate the bird was most likely of the Siberian subspecies *baueri*, which breeds in Alaska. Further consultation with Robert E. Gill, who has studied this species extensively, confirmed that the bird was a female (pers. comm.). The Bar-tailed Godwit remained at this site through 8 August 2017 and was seen by many birders from Iowa and throughout the Midwest. Notably, this appears to be the first confirmed record of this species from the Interior U.S., although there are multiple unconfirmed reports from Utah.

1906 Leopold Drive, Ames, IA 50010 (cootjr@iastate.edu)

Yellow-billed Loon at Clear Lake

Betty V. Lucas and Carolyn J. Fischer

During the late afternoon hours of 6 November 2017, Betty Lucas made a quick check of Clear Lake (Cerro Gordo County) for ducks, loons, and grebes. From one location on the north shore of the lake at least 80 distant loons were visible, so it seemed apparent that a large movement of loons had taken place with the passage of an approaching arctic air mass. It became too dark for further investigation, so the next morning, 7 November 2017, we and Rita Goranson set out to recheck the lake for loons. Many Common Loons were observed, although not the high numbers of the previous day. Around noon, Carolyn, who was checking the south shore of Clear Lake, located a possible Yellow-billed Loon near State Park Beach, and notified Rita and Betty, who quickly reached Carolyn's location. The three birders observed the loon as it rested and preened for about 50 minutes from around 150 yards, until the loon slowly drifted east and out of observation range.

The loon in question was quite large and heavy-bodied, with an enormous bill that appeared upturned. The bill was ivory/light gray in color, with a slight pale yellowish tint being noted, especially when the bill was in direct sunlight. The loon had a large, angular head, a thick neck (which was always held in a retracted or "scrunched up" position), and floated low in the water. The body was grayish brown in color, with a scalloped pattern on the mid back area formed by alternating bars of grayish brown and lighter gray. The head and hind-neck were slightly lighter in color than the body and a uniformly warmer shade of brown. A faint, discrete auricular patch was noted, a feature that the Common Loon lacks. A lighter area encircled the eye, and a faint outline of a neck ring was visible on the side of the neck. Strongly suspecting that Carolyn had discovered a Yellow-billed Loon, the birders digiscoped several photos of the loon before it drifted out of view. Further attempts the following day to relocate the Yellow-billed Loon were unsuccessful, although numerous Common Loons and one Red-throated Loon remained at the same location.

This sighting of a Yellow-billed Loon represents only the fifth accepted record for the state of Iowa. Interestingly, the first recorded sighting of a Yellow-billed Loon also took place at Clear Lake, on 18 April 1999, located by Jan Walters (Kent 2000). Other accepted records occurred on 21 December 1999 at Little Wall Lake in Hamilton County, 28 November 2007 at Saylorville Reservoir in Polk County (Johnson 2008), and 15 July 2008 at a farm pond in Tama County (Johnson 2009).

The Yellow-billed Loon is a close relative of the Common Loon and is often confused with it. The Yellow-billed Loon breeds north of the range of its smaller and more widespread relative. Increasingly, however, the Yellow-billed Loon has been recorded wintering well inland in North America, a phenomenon that probably stems from improved field identification of basic-plumaged loons and new potential winter habitat created by manmade reservoirs. Birders should always carefully observe as-

sumed Common Loons, especially those in basic plumage, in case the field marks point toward the rarer but very similar Yellow-billed Loon.

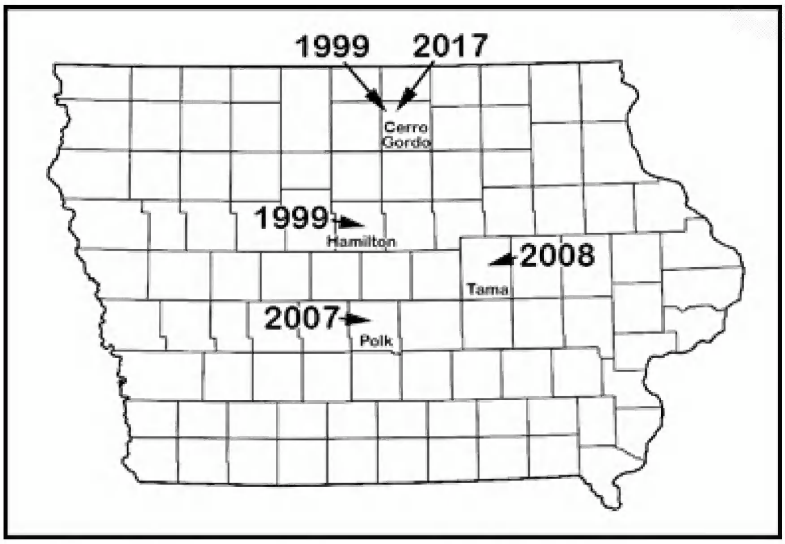


Figure 1. Locations of the five accepted records of Yellow-billed Loon in Iowa.

LITERATURE CITED

North, M. R. 1994. Yellow-billed Loon (*Gavia adamsii*), version 2.0. in The Birds of North America (A. F. Poole and F. B. Gill, Editors). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, USA.

Kent, T. H. 2000. Report of the Records Committee for 1999. *Iowa Bird Life* 70:144.

Johnson, A. M. 2008. Report of the Records Committee for 2007. *Iowa Bird Life* 78:145.

Johnson, A. M. 2009. Report of the Records Committee for 2008. *Iowa Bird Life* 79:176.

7 Deer Creek Court, Mason City, IA, 50401 (lucasfam504@yahoo.com)
48 Lakeview Court, Mason City, IA, 50401 (cjfischer11@gmail.com)

Gyrfalcon in Howard County

Ryan Shackleton

On 29 November 2017 I drove a loop near Saratoga in Howard County to look for Snowy Owls. The area is usually a good place to find them, but not on this trip. As I came to the pheasant farm on 70th St. between Jade and Iris Avenues, I noticed a large gray raptor perched on one of the posts supporting the pheasant netting. The bird stayed in position while I stopped my car and rolled down the window to take some pictures, and then it flew to another perch. Before moving, it hovered for several seconds, which allowed me to get some photos of it in flight. I was able to watch it for several minutes before it flew to a tree on the northwest edge of the property. At the time I didn't know what the bird was, just an interesting gray-colored raptor that I had never seen before. I continued my normal route looking for Snowy Owls with no luck and worked my way home, seeing several Bald Eagles and Rough-legged Hawks but no owls.

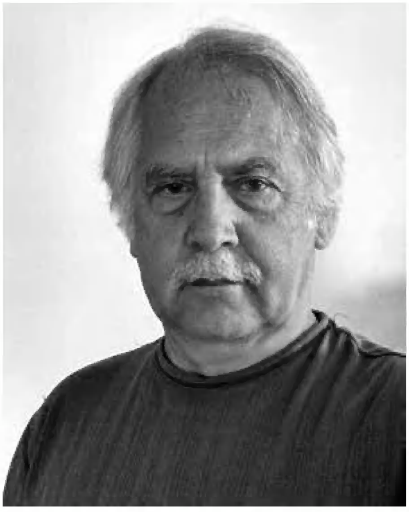
Once I got home, I posted the photos on the IA-Bird listserv and the Canon photography forum asking for help with identification. Within minutes I began receiving emails from excited members, with Brandon Caswell being the first. All responders agreed; the bird was a Gyrfalcon. It is a casual species in Iowa and it never occurred to me to look for one. It turned an unsuccessful search into one of my better ones. I kept an eye out for it the rest of the season but didn't spot the bird again.

Alta Vista, IA (shack357@windstream.net)

Gyrfalcon, near Saratoga, Howard, *29 Nov 2017. Photograph by Ryan Shackleton, Alta Vista, IA.*

Field Reports—Fall 2017

Paul Hertzel



Paul Hertzel

WEATHER

Globally, 2017 ranked with 2015 as the second-warmest years on record, with 2016 being the warmest. The year averaged nearly 2°F above the pre-industrial baseline (1850–1900). In Iowa, 2017 was just another year in the top-10 warmest years in the state climate record books. It ranked as the 9th warmest and 61st wettest year among 145 years of record-keeping. The record warmth, however, cannot be blamed on the fall season, in which both August and November ended cooler than normal.

August in Iowa averaged 3.5°F below normal, making it the 15th coolest on record. The highest temperature for the month was only 93°F on the 10th, and nowhere in the state exceeded 90°F after the 19th. Many stations never recorded a day higher than 90°F; indeed, Northwood never got higher than 81°F during the month. Precipitation was close to normal statewide but was scattered so that many areas needing moisture stayed dry.

In September, conditions reversed from those in August, with unusual warmth including 95°F in Iowa City on the 28th, which was higher than any August temperature in the state. During the period between the 13th and the 25th, temperatures reached at least 90°F somewhere in the state on ten of those thirteen days. It was the 15th warmest September on record. Also in comparison to August, the occasional rains ceased, at least in the first half of September. The statewide average precipitation total was only 0.07 inches through the 15th. In the second half of the month, welcome rains fell primarily in west central Iowa and a few localized regions in the southeastern part of the state.

October temperatures were also above normal, lasting until about the 26th. It was still 82°F in Burlington on the 21st, warmer than any temperature recorded in Northwood during August. The statewide monthly average of 53.2°F was 2.4°F above normal. This would have been higher had it not been for a dramatic reversal late in the month with the season's first widespread hard freeze on the morning of the 28th. October precipitation was also above normal with frequent and heavy rains during the first half of the month. One event occurring on the 5th through the 7th brought a statewide average of 2.27 inches which, by itself, nearly matched the normal monthly

statewide average of 2.63 inches. Late in the month, on the 26th, the season's first light snows fell over areas in the extreme north.

The warm pattern that began in September and continued through most of October yielded to unusually cold and cloudy conditions during the first three weeks of November. At Swea City on the 10th, a recording of 6°F was the lowest in Iowa for so early in the season since 2003. But a return of much milder conditions over the last 9 days of the month enabled November to finish only 0.5°F below normal. The statewide precipitation total of 0.44 inches was the lowest for any month of the year over the previous decade. Only a trace of snow was detected in several locations early in the month, giving 2017 the lowest November snowfall total on record.

HABITAT, GENERAL TRENDS

Opposite of what might be expected, the unusual warmth of September and October did not appear to delay the arrivals of waterfowl migrants. Occurring ahead of the median arrival dates over the last 10 years were Greater Scaup, Surf Scoter, and White-winged Scoter, with the latter arriving on a second-earliest date ever. The fall 2017 season might make a good case to argue there is only a weak connection between waterfowl movements and weather. Black Scoters also were not late, appearing right on their median arrival date of 24 October. Yet, Cackling Geese were three weeks beyond their median arrival date and Snow Geese were never recorded in any significant numbers. Ruddy Ducks and goldeneyes arrived in numbers right about the first hard freeze, in late October, but that's when they usually arrive.

On the other hand, ideal habitat aided in its creation by favorable weather conditions lured good numbers of shorebirds to pause in Iowa along their migration routes. In early August, two sites hosted thousands of shorebirds, Union Slough NWR in Kossuth County, especially Pool B, and an area along the Des Moines River starting at the north end of Red Rock Reservoir. At Union Slough NWR, a huge concentration of shorebirds in the first week of August was estimated to contain 5000 Pectoral Sandpipers alone. One of three Western Sandpipers of the season was found there on the 8th, and an historical high count of 36 Whimbrels was found there on the 13th. At the same time, a Piping Plover was identified there, and in September, the season's only Black-necked Stilt was present. On the Des Moines River, if the numbers weren't quite as dramatic, the diversity of species certainly was. On 5 August, the state's first Bar-tailed Godwit was encountered there at the north end of the reservoir, and the next day a Ruff was noticed in the same mix. Conditions were excellent at least as far north as Runnells, enabling season high counts of Least Sandpipers, Lesser and Greater Yellowlegs, plus a Little Gull and a record late Marbled Godwit both on 14 October.

Two other areas worth mentioning for providing good habitat were Trumbull Lake in Clay County and Green Island WA in Jackson County. Over the summer months and into August, Trumbull Lake saw nesting Redhead, Red-necked Grebe, Western Grebe, Common Gallinule, and Black Terns in addition to the many more regular species (Dinsmore 2017). At Green Island WA, family groups of Common Gallinule were

easy to find in August and September, and a King Rail family group was identified there at the end of August. Also, one of the season's only two Yellow Rails was found there in a dry prairie area.

In 2017, the Hitchcock NC hawk watch in Pottawattamie County saw its third-lowest season total despite the presence of full-time observers. The total of 8127 individuals placed ahead only of 2014 and 2015 in 16 years of operation. Record low totals were reported for Bald Eagles and American Kestrels, and a second-lowest total was set for Swainson's Hawks. At Grammer Grove hawk watch in Marshall County, kestrels were also recorded in low numbers along with Cooper's Hawks. But a few highlights at Grammer Grove were record high totals for Broad-winged Hawks and Peregrine Falcons. The 4405 Broad-winged Hawks counted there was greater than the entire season totals of all raptors in any of the other 27 years of operation. Raptor diversity remained high this fall and included a Swallow-tailed Kite in Harrison County in September, two Ferruginous Hawks recorded at Hitchcock NC in October, and a Gyrfalcon found in Howard County in November. Twenty-one Snowy Owls in November was the most in fall in forty years, and indicated a pending major event in December.

No passerines stayed to statistically late dates, but two arrived record early. A White-winged Crossbill on 25 Oct was the earliest apart from two prior records that could be considered summer records, and a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher tied the previous earliest fall date. Many other migrants arrived on the early side of their median arrival dates including Winter Wren and Brewer's Blackbird that arrived 11 days early, Lincoln's Sparrow that arrived 8 days early, and American Tree Sparrow and White-crowned Sparrow that arrived 5 days early. It was a good fall for Red-breasted Nuthatches, redpolls, and both crossbills. With Cornell Lab of Ornithology's help, Type 2, Type 4, and Type 5 Red Crossbills were confirmed in Iowa. Black-billed Magpies continue to be noticed for their absence. The last sighting in the state was at Broken Kettle Grassland almost two years ago in February 2016 (Moore 2016), and it is likely the species will return to casual status.

UNUSUAL SPECIES

The state's 429th species, a Bar-tailed Godwit, was found by Stephen J. Dinsmore at the northwest edge of Red Rock Reservoir in Marion County in August. Other *accidental* species identified this fall were Iowa's 5th record of Yellow-billed Loon first found by Carolyn Fischer at Clear Lake in Cerro Gordo County, a Swallow-tailed Kite photographed by Patrick Swanson in Harrison County in September, and a Common Raven captured by an un-attended trail camera at Broken Kettle Grasslands in Plymouth County. Species classified *casual* that were recorded this fall were a male Ruff found by Jim Sinclair at the same site as and during the presence of the Bar-tailed Godwit, King Rail adults and juveniles at Green Island WA in Jackson County documented by Ethan Brown and Robert Walton, two distinct Little Gulls, one found by Jim Forde and the other by Stephen J. Dinsmore, two California Gulls, both found by

Jim Forde, a Great Black-backed Gull found on the last day of the season by Stephen J. Dinsmore, a Black Vulture found in Fayette County by Paul Skrade, two Ferruginous Hawks entered into the daily log at Hitchcock NC hawk watch by Bethany Thornton, and a Gyrfalcon photographed in Howard County by Ryan Shackleton.

SPECIES DATA

All CAPS = Casual or Accidental species. * = documented. County names are in italics. Full names of contributors are at the end of the article. Abbreviations used: A = area, HHW = Hitchcock hawk watch, INHS = Illinois Natural History Survey, L = lake, M = marsh, m.ob. = many observers, NC = nature center, NM = national monument, NWR = national wildlife refuge, P = park, R = river, RA = recreation area, Res = reservoir, SF = state forest, Sl = slough, SP = state park, USFWS = U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, WDNR = Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, WA = wildlife area.

Snow Goose: 1 or 2 were found at scattered sites in Aug and Sep with the first significant migrant group 220 on 22 Oct at Chichaqua *Polk* (eBird). In November, larger flights were recorded in the west, with 900 on 19 Nov in *Sioux* (eBird), 7659 at HHW on 5 Nov *Pottawattamie* (BT), and 6882 on 15 Nov at HHW *Pottawattamie* (BT). The truly large flights either came late or stayed west of Iowa.

Ross's Goose: 1 on 20 Oct in Mason City (CJF), 1 on 11 Nov in *Clayton* (DAk), 2 on 19 Nov in *Sioux* (eBird), 2 on 26 Nov in *Cass* (eBird), 1 on 26 Nov in *Polk* (eBird), and at HHW *Pottawattamie* there were 5 on 9 Nov, 11 on 18 Nov, and 1 on 30 Nov (BT).

Greater White-fronted Goose: First: 1 or 2 in Aug and Sep were found prior to the first notable groups in October. Some high counts were 2380 at HHW on 7 Oct *Pottawattamie* (BT), and 1000 on 22 Oct over the High Trestle Trail *Boone* (eBird). 24 were still at DeSoto NWR *Harrison* on 30 Nov (USFWS).

Cackling Goose: First: 12 on 25 Oct at Water Works P in the city of Des Moines (JB). Most- 200 on 28 Oct at Green Castle *Marshall* (eBird) and another 200 on 8 Nov at Swan Lake SP *Carroll* (eBird).

Mute Swan: A family group of 5 were reported at Littlefield P *Audubon* through 23 Nov (DAk, MP, eBird), and 1 was at Lock & Dam 14 *Scott* for most of the season, last reported on 20 Nov (BCC, eBird).

Trumpeter Swan: Very widely reported in small groups early in the season, condensing into larger groups later. As many as 50 were at Deere Dike *Dubuque* on 11 Nov (KVS). Two eBird reports in excess of 150 were from locations also along the Mississippi River where Tundra Swans typically gather by the thousands and the blending of the species can make it difficult to get accurate counts of Trumpeters.

Tundra Swan: Began appearing along the Mississippi River in mid-late October (WDNR). 1644 were counted at Pool 9 *Allamakee* on 16 Nov (WDNR). An eBird report had 5000 on 15 Nov

along River View Road *Allamakee*.

Wood Duck: Most: 710 on 11 Oct at DeSoto NWR *Harrison* (USFWS).

Blue-winged Teal: Usually gathers and leaves early. A peak of 3100 were counted on 21 Sep on the Mississippi River at Nauvoo/Fort Madison (INHS), and declined to 1010 by 27 Sep. By mid Oct, high counts were down to 600 at Sedan *Appanoose* (TNJ) and 625 at DeSoto NWR (USFWS) which dropped to 4 by 1 Nov.

Northern Shoveler: Some high counts were 600 on 16 Nov at Pool No. 9 *Allamakee* (WDNR), and 500 on 22 Nov at Port Louisa NWR *Louisa* (INHS). There was also an eBird report of 750 on 8 Oct at High Trestle Trail bridge *Boone*.

Gadwall: Peaked at Port Louisa NWR *Louisa* at 3900 on 31 Oct (INHS). Away from the Mississippi River, the high count was 700 on 5 Nov in *Polk* (AB). 142 were still at Saylorville Res *Polk* on 26 Nov (RLC).

American Wigeon: The high count was 602 on 16 Nov at Pool No. 9 *Allamakee* (WDNR). Other significant totals were 300 on 20 Oct at Port Louisa NWR *Louisa* (INHS) and 120 on 7 Nov at Lock & Dam 10 *Clayton* (eBird). The last was 1 on 30 Nov at DeSoto NWR *Harrison* (USFWS).

American Black Duck: The first was 3 on 13 Oct at Lock & Dam No. 9 *Allamakee* (eBird). As many as 6 were at Deere Dike *Dubuque* on 12 Nov (DAS, MP). Also reported in small numbers from *Clayton*, *Marion*, *Polk*, *Scott*, and *Sioux*.

Northern Pintail: Began to peak in the east in the third week of October with 1000 at Red Rock Res *Marion* (eBird), 1200 at Sedan *Appanoose* (TNJ), and 6200 at Port Louisa NWR *Louisa* (INHS). During the next week, numbers in the east began to decline but in the west numbers were increasing. There were 4509 at DeSoto NWR *Harrison* on 25 Oct which grew to a peak of 5496 on 1 Nov (USFWS). By 26 Nov, the largest concentration in the east was 410 at Red Rock Res *Marion* (eBird). On the last day of the season there were still 24 at DeSoto NWR.

Green-winged Teal: Peaked in the east on 27 Sep when 1450 were counted near Fort Madison (INHS), with numbers holding well enough to enable a count of 1120 on 26 Nov at Red Rock Res *Marion* (AB). But the stronghold for this species is in the west where the high count was 8304 on 1 Nov at DeSoto NWR *Harrison* (USFWS). These numbers decreased throughout the month, and by December, most were gone.

Canvasback: The first significant gathering along the Mississippi River was an estimated 5000 at Pool No. 9 *Allamakee* on 25 Oct (eBird). A week later, aerial surveys by the Wisconsin DNR estimated 11,880 at the same location, which then increased to 35,253 by 16 Nov. Further south, aerial counts by the Illinois Natural History Survey estimated 35,100 in the waters near Keokuk and Fort Madison which decreased only slightly by the end of the season. Away from the Mississippi River, the largest count was 75 on 25 Nov along a sandbar of the Missouri R *Woodbury* (eBird).

Redhead: After two Aug reports of 6 in *Dickinson* (LAS) and 1 in *Johnson* (eBird), no one mentioned this species until October when widely scattered re-

ports of small numbers began early in the month. The most in October was 30 on 21 Oct at Red Rock *Marion* (eBird) and another 25 on 28 Oct at Ventura *Cerro Gordo* (eBird). In November, numbers continued to increase slightly with 48 on 8 Nov at Red Rock and 55 on 11 Nov at Saylorville Res *Polk* (eBird). The peak was 200 on 29 Nov in the waters of the Mississippi River off Keokuk *Lee* (INHS).

Ring-necked Duck: The first notable gathering on the Mississippi River was 1500 on 25 Oct along Red Oak Rd *Allamakee* (eBird). 2600 were counted 6 Nov near Keokuk *Lee* with another 2800 at Port Louisa NWR *Louisa* (INHS), and 2375 on 16 Nov at Pool No. 9 *Allamakee* (WDNR). Numbers continued to increase with the most an estimate of 6000 at Keokuk on 29 Nov (INHS). Away from the Mississippi River, the high count was ~300 during 18–26 Nov at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB, RLC).

Greater Scaup: 6 were found on Spirit L *Dickinson* 21 Oct (LAS).

Lesser Scaup: Groups began moving into the state in October. 75 were at Union Slough NWR *Kossuth* 8 Oct (eBird), and 100 were at Pool No. 9 *Allamakee* 13 Oct (eBird). The latter increased quickly to 4114 by the end of the month (WDNR) which was the high count there. Drifting south and increasing in numbers, rafts of 21,000 on 6 Nov and 26,600 on 13 Nov were counted in Mississippi River waters near Keokuk *Lee* (INHS). Away from the Mississippi River, no counts exceeded 1000. Along the Big Sioux R *Sioux* 700 were counted 19 Nov (POR), and 740 on 5 Nov were "an incredibly low high count" at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB).

Surf Scoter: A total of 42 individuals was one more than last year's record total of 41. The first was a group of 7 on 10 Oct at Little Wall L *Hamilton* (SJD), and the last was 1 on 14 Nov at Clear L *Cerro Gordo* (RG). The most was a single raft of 19 birds at Big Creek SP *Polk* on 15 Oct (SJD–photo). Other groups were 2 at Clear L 23 Oct–2 Nov (BVL, RG), 2 at Lock & Dam 14 *Scott* 29 Oct–2 Nov (eBird), 3 at Twelve Mile L *Union* 4 Nov (eBird), and 4 at Red Rock Res *Marion* 7 Nov (JF). Four additional reports were of single birds in *Chickasaw*, *Clayton*, *Linn*, and *Woodbury*.

White-winged Scoter: All: 2 were at the Forest City settling ponds *Hancock* 5–8 Oct (RG, BVL, JB, DAk) a 2nd-earliest date, 1 was at Lock & Dam 13 *Clinton* on 16 Oct (JF), 2 were at Saylorville Res *Polk* 31 Oct (eBird), 1 was at Red Rock Res *Marion* 8 Nov (eBird), and 4 were at Spirit L *Dickinson* 11 Nov (LAS).

Black Scoter: All: 3 at Cedar L *Linn* 24 Oct (JF), 2 at Coralville L *Johnson* 25 Oct (JF, BCC), 1 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 4 Nov and another there 11 Nov (AB), 1 at Clear Lake *Cerro Gordo* 8 Nov (CJF), and 2 at Spirit L *Dickinson* 11 Nov (LAS).

Long-tailed Duck: Eleven individuals matched the total from last year, which was the most since 2005. The first was 1 on 4 Nov at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB), followed by 2 on 5 Nov at Soper's Mill *Story* (eBird), 4 at Carter L *Pottawattamie* on 22 Nov (eBird), 3 at Spirit L *Dickinson* 25 Nov (LAS), and 1 at Lock & Dam 9 *Allamakee* on 29 Nov (JF).

Bufflehead: 1–3 began to appear in the second half of October in *Dickinson*, *Cerro Gordo*, *Black Hawk*, *Linn* and *Polk*

(m.ob.). The first large concentration was 2000 counted in a massive mixed flock at Pool No. 9 *Allamakee* 25 Oct (eBird), and which grew to 4337 by 16 Nov (WDNR). On 22 Nov, 4710 were counted between Fort Madison and Keokuk (INHS). Away from the Mississippi R, numbers peaked at 206 at Saylorville Res *Polk* on 10 Nov (AB, RLC) and 150 at L Manawa *Pottawattamie* 12 Nov (eBird).

Common Goldeneye: Along the Mississippi River, the first 12 were found at Pool No. 9 *Allamakee* 25 Oct (eBird) where numbers grew to 1836 by 16 Nov (WDNR). Downstream, at Fort Madison, 7000 were estimated on 22 Nov (INHS). Away from the Mississippi River, the first were 2 at Ventura *Cerro Gordo* on 29 Oct (eBird). High counts were 276 on 20 Nov at Saylorville Res *Polk* (BE), 760 on 26 Nov at Red Rock Res *Marion* (eBird), and 182 on 25 Nov along the Missouri R *Woodbury* (eBird).

Hooded Merganser: Some high counts were 87 on 11 Nov at Big Creek SP *Polk* (AB), 120 on 12 Nov at L Macbride *Johnson* (eBird), 85 on 15 Nov at New Lake *Woodbury* (GLV), and 259 on 20 Nov at Saylorville Res *Polk* (BE).

Common Merganser: The first to appear in the logs of aerial surveys along the Mississippi River was 200 on 13 Nov near Fort Madison (INHS) and which is right about on time. A trickle of unsupported eBird reports away from the Mississippi River began 11 Oct, which would be record early by more than a week. Individuals reported before the first week of November should be accompanied by details or photographs. At Saylorville Res *Polk*, 210 on 11 Nov grew to 2230 by 20 Nov (AB, BE). The most at Red Rock Res *Marion* was 360 on 26 Nov (AB). In the far west, the most was 231 on 22 Nov at DeSoto *Harrison* (USFWS).

Red-breasted Merganser: The first few were all eBird reports: 2 on 27 Oct at Prairie Lakes SP *Black Hawk*, 1 on 28 Oct at Ventura *Cerro Gordo*, and 1 on 1 Nov at Saylorville Res *Polk*. Some high counts were up to 100 at Saylorville 10–20 Nov (RLC, BE, eBird), and 45 at Red Rock Res *Marion* (eBird).

Ruddy Duck: A few August reports in *Clay*, *Kossuth* and *Winnebago* indicate modest breeding took place in north Iowa. The large rafts didn't appear until the end of October with 1200 on 25 Oct at Pool No. 9 *Allamakee* (eBird), 274 on 29 Oct at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB), 350 on 4 Nov at Clear L *Cerro Gordo* (eBird), and 365 on 14 Nov at L Manawa *Pottawattamie* (DGE). On the Mississippi River, aerial surveys estimated between 4500-9000 in flights 13–29 Nov in the waters between Fort Madison and Keokuk (INHS).

Northern Bobwhite: Reported as far north as *Black Hawk* in the east, *Dallas* in the central, and *Harrison* in the west. Some significant groups were 14 on 8 Aug in *Harrison* (eBird), and 16 on 19 Sep in *Ringgold* (eBird). DNR August Roadside Surveys did not detect any statistically significant changes in current population trends.

Gray Partridge: Reported in *Sioux*, *Dickinson*, *Kossuth*, *Winnebago*, *Worth,* and *Allamakee* in the north, and also *Pocahontas*, *Cerro Gordo* and *Black Hawk*. The most was 23 on 1 Sep in *Worth* (DAk). There was also an eBird report of 10 in *Black Hawk* on 29 Oct. DNR August Roadside Surveys showed a population 25% above the 10-year mean,

but 44% below the long-term mean.

Ring-necked Pheasant: Iowa DNR reported that sharp decreases over 2016 roadside counts , the 2017 counts were in "stark contrast to field staff and landowner reports". It is thought that a mid-summer drought that coincided with the timing of the surveys "created poor dew conditions during the survey and led to an inaccurate count." 293 eBird reports support the opinions of the field staff and landowners.

Ruffed Grouse: No reports.

GREATER PRAIRIE-CHICKEN: There were three reports from the Kellerton Grasslands WA in *Ringgold* (eBird) which was elevated to the status of Globally Important Bird Area by Birdlife International and the National Audubon Society in August.

Wild Turkey: Reported in 49 counties with the most 87 in *Cerro Gordo* 6 Oct (PH).

Pied-billed Grebe: Widely reported with groups of 50 or more counted on 19 Aug in *Clay*, 26 Aug in *Winnebago*, 29 Aug in *Guthrie*, 4 Oct in *Johnson*, 7 Oct in *Dickinson* and 13 Oct in *Allamakee* (LAS, DAk, eBird). The most was 163 at Trumbull L *Clay* on 19 Aug (LAS).

Horned Grebe: The first was 1 on 2 Oct at Rathbun L *Appanoose* (TNJ) followed by 1–4 at Clear L *Cerro Gordo* and Hawkeye WA *Johnson* on 10 Oct (BVL, JF). As many as 27 peaked at Saylorville Res *Polk* 7–11 Nov (DTh, AB). Another 22 were at Coralville L *Johnson* 9 Nov (JF).

Red-necked Grebe: One was at Red Rock Res *Marion* on 8 Oct (TGS), and another explored Saylorville Res *Polk* 10–13 Nov (AB, BE, RLC).

Eared Grebe: All: 1 at Lock & Dam 13 *Clinton* on 16 Oct (JF), 1 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 22 Oct (BE), 1 at Pleasant Creek RA *Linn* 30 Oct (JF), 2 at Coralville L *Johnson* 9 Nov (JF), and 1 at Saylorville 10 Nov (AB).

Western Grebe: Through 9 Sep, up to 9 at a time could be found at Trumbull L *Clay* where they nested (DCH, LAS, RG, LGR). Otherwise, there were five reports of single birds: 17 Sep at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB), 8 Nov at Red Rock Res *Marion* (JF), 12 Nov at Big Creek SP *Polk* (RLC), 18 Nov at Spirit L *Dickinson* (LAS), and 24–26 Nov at Schildberg RA *Cass* (MHB).

Eurasian Collared-Dove: Very widely reported in small numbers, and still expanding. A couple of notable counts were 40 on 30 Nov at Pacific Junction *Mills* (POR), and 62 on 18 Nov at the Brenton feedlot *Dallas* (AB).

White-winged Dove: A single report of a bird on a power line came from near Ames *Story* on 26 Aug (POR).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Reported from 34 counties in all parts of the state. Most reports were of single birds, but a few notable exceptions were 4 on 1 Aug at Hawkeye WA *Johnson*, 5 on 4 Aug at Port Louisa NWR *Louisa*, and 4 on 26 Aug at Robinson Bird Sanctuary *Black Hawk* (eBird). The last was an eBird report on 24 Sep at Hartman Reserve *Black Hawk*.

Black-billed Cuckoo: There were 11 reports of which four were not from the east – 1 on 4 Aug at DeSoto NWR *Harrison* (eBird), 1 on 1 Aug at Union Sl NWR *Kossuth* (eBird), 1 on 3 Aug from Zirbel Sl *Cerro Gordo* (BVL), and 1 on 30 Aug from Ledges SP *Boone* (DCH).

The last was 1 on 17 Sep at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (MHB

Common Nighthawk: The first report of significant movement was 200 on 27 Aug in Des Moines *Polk* (POR), followed by 950 on 29 Aug over Mason City *Cerro Gordo* (PH). The last few were 1 on 12 Oct in *Polk* (AB), and 1 on 14 Oct in *O'Brien* (eBird).

Eastern Whip-poor-will: There were two eBird reports from Stone SP *Woodbury*, 1 on 8 Aug and 1 on 10 Sep.

Chimney Swift: In early September, there were reports of gatherings of 100–300 at Burhow's Building *Bremer*, Bush Scenic Overlook *Scott*, and Water Works P *Polk* (eBird). 60 were still at Water Works P on 17 Oct (eBird), and the last was 24 at Glendale Cemetery *Polk* on 19 Oct (eBird).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: The last were reports of singles at yard feeders in *Polk* on 15 Oct (AB), *Greene* on 18 Oct (eBird), and *Linn* on 19 Oct (Jim Durbin).

Yellow Rail: Two eBird reports had good details: 1 flushed ahead of a tractor at Port Louisa NWR *Louisa* on 27 Sep, and another flushed from a dry prairie adjacent to wetlands at Green Island WA *Jackson* on 1 Oct.

KING RAIL: Both adults and juveniles were confirmed at Green Island WA *Jackson* 28–31 Aug (*BCC-photo, *Ethan Brown-photo, *Robert Walton).

Virginia Rail: An adult with young was at Dewey's Pasture *Palo Alto* on 19 Aug (LAS). Single birds were also reported at 12 other locations around the state with the last 1 heard at Anderson L *Hamilton* on 29 Oct (eBird).

Sora: The most was up to 9 at Green Island *Jackson* on 30 Aug (BCC). The last was 1 at Water Works P *Polk* on 17 Oct (AB).

Common Gallinule: Up to 25 at a time from at least 3 family groups were seen by many at Green Island *Jackson* 2 Aug–18 Oct (BCC, eBird). Also, 1 heard at Cone M *Louisa* 8 Aug (eBird), 2 adults and 5 young at Errington M *Polk* 11 Aug (eBird), 2 at Trumbull L *Clay* 12 Aug (LAS), and 2 at Bay's Branch *Guthrie* 1 Sep (DTh).

American Coot: Typically, huge concentrations occur in fall on the major waterways. Highest counts this season were 5600 on 8 Oct at Rice L *Worth* (DAk) and 4000 on 6 Nov at Harpers Sl *Allamakee* (eBird).

Sandhill Crane: Reported throughout the season, from 21 counties primarily in the eastern half of the state, but also from *Dickinson*, *Humboldt*, *Pocahontas*, and *Harrison*. The most was 121 at Otter Creek M *Tama* on 11 Oct (JF). Also of note were eBird reports of 36 at Green Island *Jackson* 25 Nov and 48 at Pool Sl *Allamakee* 30 Nov.

WHOOPING CRANE: A single banded bird was observed 1–2 Sep in *Clinton* (eBird), possibly the same individual that spent 2 weeks near Bellevue *Jackson* in November 2016.

Black-necked Stilt: A female was photographed at Union Sl NWR *Kossuth* 26 Sep (SJD), a record latest date.

American Avocet: All: 1–6 during 1–22 Aug at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF), 1–4 during 4 Aug–28 Oct at Red Rock Res *Marion* (MP, AB, TGS) except for an unusual high count of 47 on 28 Sep (JF), at 1–16 during 1 Sep–20 Oct in

Polk (m.ob), 1 on 19 Oct at Amana *Iowa* (JF), and 3 on 23 Oct at Lock & Dam 14 *Scott* (JF).

Black-bellied Plover: First few: 2 on 1–13 Aug at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF, eBird) were early, 1–6 at Red Rock Res *Marion* 7 Aug–7 Sep (eBird), 1 at Blackmore sod farm *Cerro Gordo* 1 Sep (BVL). 1–3 also reported in *Appanoose*, *Bremer*, *Buena Vista*, *Iowa*, *Kossuth*, *Polk,* and *Woodbury*. The last was 1 on 5 Nov at Amana *Iowa* (JF).

American Golden-Plover: After an odd mid-summer report on 13 July (Dinsmore 2017), the first August migrant was 1 at Aldo Leopold WA *Bremer* 19 Aug (eBird), followed by 1 at Blackmore sod farm *Cerro Gordo* 23 Aug (BVL). Some high counts were 22 on 4 Sep at Red Rock Res *Marion* (eBird), 27 on 13 Sep in *Kossuth* (eBird), and 27 on 11 Oct in *Greene* (MP) which was also the last.

Semipalmated Plover: The only location with consistently good numbers was Red Rock Res *Marion* where as many as 62 were present through late August and holding until 4 Sep (eBird). The last three reports were 2 on 15 Sep at Banner Flats *Warren*, 1 at Jensen M *Madison*, and 1 at Saylorville Res *Polk* (eBird).

Piping Plover: A juvenile was at Union Sl *Kossuth* 10–13 Aug (MP, SJD), and another was at Saylorville Res *Polk* 2–3 Sep (SJD).

Killdeer: High counts were 188 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 5 Aug (eBird), and 185 at Red Rock Res *Marion* 6 Aug (eBird).

Upland Sandpiper: From 1–4 were reported in August from *Dallas*, *Johnson*, *Marion*, *Scott*, *Sioux*, *Story*, *Woodbury* with the last on 28 Aug in *Story* (DAk).

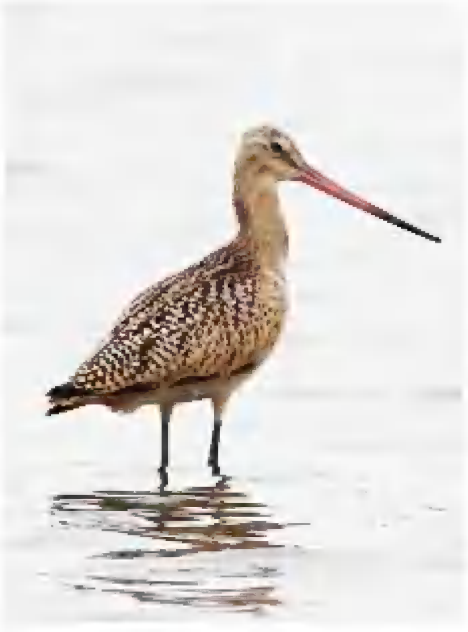
Whimbrel: An unprecedented 36 on 13 Aug at Union Slough NWR *Kossuth* was a surprise for Doug Harr. Whimbrels are more common in spring than fall, but even in that season, the highest previous count was 8 at Riverton *Fremont* on 17 May 1996 (*IBL* 66:103). Another individual was found 16 Sep at Green Bay *Lee* (CF).

BAR-TAILED GODWIT: Iowa's first record, an adult female, was found by Stephen J. Dinsmore 5 Aug foraging at the northwest edge of Red Rock Res *Marion* and remained through 7 Aug (*SJD–photo, *AB–photo, *TMH, *AMJ, *CRE, KVS, RLC, DAk, MP). The plumage was consistent with *L. l. baueri*, a western subspecies that ordinarily flies in the fall thousands of miles from the Alaskan arctic to its winter grounds in the south Pacific.

Hudsonian Godwit: 50 on 17 Aug at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF) was the most in fall since 66 on 22 Aug 2013 at Fort Madison *Lee* (*IBL* 84:26). The last reported was 3 on 4 Sep also at Hawkeye (JF).

Marbled Godwit: There were three reports: A juvenile at Red Rock Res *Marion* on 19 Aug (SJD), 2 at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* 22 Aug (JF, BCC), and 1 on the move at Runnells WA from *Marion* to *Polk* on 14 Oct (SJD), which was a record latest date by 2 weeks and which most likely indicates a member of the isolated James Bay population.

Ruddy Turnstone: 1 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 26–27 Aug (JB, KVS), 2 at Red Rock Res *Marion* 31 Aug–7 Sep (eBird), and another at Saylorville 20–21 Sep (eBird).



Marbled Godwit, Runnells WA, Polk, *14 August 2017. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.*

RUFF: A male was in the same flooded area along the Des Moines R in *Marion* as the Bar-tailed Godwit 6–8 Aug (*JS, *AB-photo, RLC, MP, DAk, eBird).

Stilt Sandpiper: Some notable high counts were 210 on 20 Aug at Union Sl NWR *Kossuth* (MCK) and 460 on 26 Aug at Red Rock Res *Marion* (eBird). The last was a record late individual by 4 days on 5 Nov at Lake Macbride *Johnson* (JF).

Sanderling: From 1–8 were reported from 11 counties in addition to high counts of 10 on 8 Aug at Green Island *Jackson*, 13 on 7 Sep at Red Rock Res *Marion*, and 10 on 29 Sep at Saylorville Res *Polk* (eBird). The last was 4 on 13 Nov at L Rathbun *Appanoose* (TNJ) [ties 3rd-latest].

Dunlin: All: 2 on 28 Aug at Nahant M *Scott* (eBird), 2 on 17 Sep at Little Swan L *Dickinson* (eBird), 1–5 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 7 Oct–2 Nov (eBird), and 2 on 17 Nov at Rathbun L *Appanoose* (TNJ).

Baird's Sandpiper: The most was up to 22 at Red Rock Res *Marion* during 5 Aug–10 Sep (m.ob.). The last one was getting late on 5 Aug at Amana *Iowa* (JF).

Least Sandpiper: The larger concentrations were 100–180 at Union Sl NWR *Kossuth* 2–14 Aug (DAk, eBird), up to 220 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 12–27 Aug (AB, JB, RLC), up to 1100 at Red Rock Res *Marion* 5 Aug–4 Sep (DAk, eBird), and 200 at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* 12 Aug (eBird). The last was getting late on 26 Nov at Terry Trueblood RA *Johnson* (eBird).

White-rumped Sandpiper: There were two reports of this rare fall migrant. An eBird report of 2 on 17 Sep at Red Rock Res *Marion* had good details, and another pair on 5 Nov at Amana *Iowa* were 2nd-latest (JF-photo).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: Returned in July (Dinsmore 2017). High counts were 12 on 11 Aug at Sergeant Bluff sod farm in *Woodbury* (GLV) and also 11 on 17 Sep at Union Sl NWR *Kossuth* which were also the last (MCK).

Pectoral Sandpiper: At Union Sl NWR *Kossuth*, 4033 reported on 26 July (Dinsmore 2017) were estimated to have increased to at least 5000 by 6 Aug (MCK, eBird) with most birds concentrated at Pool B. By 14 Aug, numbers had dropped back to about 1000 and by 12 Sep only 22 could be found there (eBird). This was a good model for their presence in Iowa this fall, with other notable con-

centrations of 770 on 5 Aug at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB), up to 1800 at Red Rock Res *Marion* on 6 Aug (DAk), and 600 on 22 Aug at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (eBird). Numbers tapered off quickly in September and no October reports involved more than 15 birds. The last two reports were 2 on 13 Nov at Rathbun L *Appanoose* (TNJ), and 1 on 15 Nov at Cedar River *Black Hawk* (MP).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: Some peak counts were 120 at Saylorville Res *Polk* 5 Aug (AB), 80 in *Kossuth* 5 Aug (DAk), 125 at Red Rock Res *Marion* 26 Aug (eBird). The last were eBird reports of 1–3 during 16–17 Sep at Jensen M *Madison*, Little Swan L *Dickinson*, and Red Rock Res *Marion*.

Western Sandpiper: 1 was at Union Sl NWR *Kossuth* 8 Aug (RG), 1 was at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* 15 Aug (JF), and 1 was at Kindlespire P *Clay* 2 Sep (LAS).

Short-billed Dowitcher: 1–6 were at Red Rock Res *Marion* 6–8 Aug (eBird), 5 were at Green Island *Jackson* 8 Aug (eBird), 1–3 were at Saylorville Res *Polk* 8–26 Aug (DTh, eBird), 1–2 were at Little Swan L *Dickinson* and Union Sl NWR *Kossuth* on 14 Aug (eBird), 1–5 were at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* 20 Aug–17 Sep (BCC, eBird).

Long-billed Dowitcher: The first few were found 17 Sep at Little Swan L *Dickinson* and Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (eBird). The most was 31 on 30 Sep at Christopherson Sl *Dickinson* (LAS). Last was 2 on 22 Oct at Rathbun L *Appanoose* (RLC, TNJ).

American Woodcock: Reported from *Black Hawk*, *Dubuque*, *Humboldt*, *Johnson*, *Muscatine*, *Polk* and *Washington*. The last was 1 on 6 Nov at Frank A Gotch SP *Humboldt* (JN).

Wilson's Snipe: Widely reported from 1 Aug through late Nov in small numbers with modest peaks of 19 on 20 Aug at Union Sl NWR *Kossuth* (MCK), 12 on 2 Sep at Marsh Farm wetland *Dallas* (eBird), 12 on 7 Sep at Colo Bogs *Story* (eBird), and 12 on 12 Nov in Urbandale *Polk* (BE).

Spotted Sandpiper: The most was an eBird report of 20 on 12 Aug at Hawkeye WA *Johnson*. Reports trickled to single birds on 4 Oct, 5 Oct, 6 Oct, 7 Oct in *Johnson*, *Black Hawk*, *Linn* and *Polk* (BCC, eBird) and then there were none.

Solitary Sandpiper: The most was 19 on 4 Sep at Red Rock Res *Marion* (eBird), and the last was 2 on 5 Oct at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (LGR).

Greater Yellowlegs: Reported in groups of more than 20 at only two locations, Union Sl NWR *Kossuth* where the peak was 35 on 16 Aug and Red Rock Res *Marion* where the peak there was 36 on 4 Sep (eBird). The last few were 2 on 31 Oct at Sand L *Marshall* (MP), and 2 on 12 Nov at Pool Sl *Allamakee* (eBird).

Willet: All: 1 on 13 Aug at Mt Sterling wetlands *Van Buren* (eBird), 2 on 17 Aug at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF), and 1 on 17 Aug at South Sabula Lakes P *Jackson* (eBird).

Lesser Yellowlegs. Some high counts were 98 on 19 Aug at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB), and as many as 320 on 26 Aug at Red Rock Res *Marion* (eBird). The last was 1 on 29 Oct at L Macbride *Johnson* (MHB).

Wilson's Phalarope: 1–6 were reported from *Johnson*, *Kossuth*, *Marion*, *Polk*, and *Tama*. The last 2 were on 30 Aug at Red Rock Res *Marion* (MP) that

became 1 on 4 Sep (eBird).

Red-necked Phalarope: In August and September, small groups of 1–5 were reported from *Cerro Gordo*, *Kossuth* and *Tama* (BVL, RG, MCK, JF) and larger groups from *Dickinson*, *Johnson*, *Marion* and *Polk*. Peaks were 10 on 8 Sep in *Polk* (AB), 16 on 12 Aug in *Dickinson* (LAS, DCH), 16 on 22 Aug in *Johnson* (JF), and 22 on 30 Aug in *Marion* (MP). The last few were 2 on 17 Sep at Union Sl NWR *Kossuth* (MCK), 1 on 17 Sep at Little Swan L *Dickinson* (LAS), and 4 on 17 Sep at Saylorville Res *Polk* with 1 remaining there on 22 Sep (eBird).

Black-legged Kittiwake: A single first cycle individual was at Lock & Dam 14 *Scott* on 20 Nov (BCC).

Sabine's Gull: There were four reports of single birds: A juvenile on 9 Sep at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD), an adult on 30 Sep at Little Swan L *Dickinson* (LAS), a juvenile on 8 Oct at Rice L *Worth* (DAk), and a juvenile on 15 Oct at Big Creek SP *Polk* (SJD).

Bonaparte's Gull: One on 1 Aug at Hawkeye *Johnson* (JF) was 2 months ahead of the next on 3 Oct at Clear L *Cerro Gordo* (BVL). Noteworthy high counts occurred at Red Rock Res *Marion* with 216 on 28 Oct (AB) and at Big Creek SP *Polk* with 312 on 11 Nov (AB).

LITTLE GULL: A first-winter individual was photographed at Red Rock Res *Marion* 28 Sep (*JF–photo). A second-cycle individual was at the Runnells WA *Polk* on 14 Oct (*SJD–photo).

Franklin's Gull: The first noteworthy migrant group was an estimate of 2000 on 23 Aug in rural *Dickinson* (LGR) – "There was a massive flock of gulls settled down on a field just West of Superior. I've never seen anything like it." By the end of Sep counts showed 2500 at Rice L SP *Winnebago*, 2200 at Lake Macbride *Johnson*, 8200 at Red Rock Res *Marion*, 6200 at Saylorville Res *Polk,* and 3000 at Water Works P in Des Moines (BCC, JB, eBird). The high count was 16,000 on 8 Oct at Saylorville (AB). By late October, most had left the state, and reports trickled down to 1 or 2 until the last on 18 Nov at Saylorville (eBird).

CALIFORNIA GULL: There were two records: a 3rd winter individual was at Lock & Dam 14 *Scott* on 16 Oct (*JF–photo) and another was at Pool No. 15 *Scott* on 23 Oct (*JF-photo).

Herring Gull: In the east, two August reports preceded a trickle of September reports. No plumages or ages were mentioned. The most was 97 on 26 Nov at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB).

Iceland Gull: There were six reports of individual birds, five of which were judged to be *thayeri*. The first was at Sandbar Sl *Dickinson* 21–28 Oct (LAS); 1 was at Lock & Dam 14 *Scott* on 14 Nov and another at Lock & Dam 15 *Scott* (JF); an adult was at Saylorville Res *Polk* 19 Nov (AB), and what may have been the same bird on 30 Nov (SJD).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: The first was an adult on 17 Sep at West Okoboji L *Dickinson* (eBird) where an individual has appeared in the fall for the last 5 years. Another adult was at Saylorville Res *Polk* 24–30 Nov (SJD, AB).

Glaucous Gull: There was an eBird report of 1 on 27 Nov in Monona.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL: A juvenile was at Saylorville Res *Polk* 30 Nov–2 Dec (*SJD–photo, *AB–photo, *AMJ).

Least Tern: An adult and two fledglings were confirmed at MidAmerican Energy ponds *Pottawattamie* 20 Aug (AB).

Caspian Tern: Some high counts were 21 on 4 Aug at Saylorville Res *Polk* (MP), and 33 on 30 Aug in *Scott* where the last 5 were seen on 30 Sep (eBird).

Black Tern: Gathered in numbers at Union Sl NWR *Kossuth*, Red Rock Res *Marion*, Saylorville Res *Polk*, Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (m.ob.). The last 2 were at Saylorville 23 Sep (AB).

Black Tern, Red Rock Reservoir, Marion, *19 August 2017. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.*

Common Tern: One was at Spirit L *Dickinson* on 27 Aug and 3 were there on 17 Sep (LAS). Another was at Ventura *Cerro Gordo* 13–22 Oct (RG).

Forster's Tern: The peak was 38 on 27 Aug at Spirit L *Dickinson* (LAS) and on the same day, 18 at Saylorville Res *Polk* (eBird). No other locations had counts higher than 6. The last was a group of 4 on 22 Oct at Ventura *Cerro Gordo* (RG).

Red-throated Loon: At Saylorville Res *Polk*, a juvenile was present 20–21 Oct and an adult was present 21–22 Oct (AB, JB, SJD). What may have been the same juvenile appeared at Red Rock Res *Marion* 28 Oct–7 Nov (AB, TGS, JF). Another juvenile was found 8 Nov at Clear L *Cerro Gordo* (RG, BCC, MP, CJF), and the last was a juvenile at Red Rock 24 Nov (SJD).

Pacific Loon: 1 or 2 were at Saylorville Res *Polk* 26 Oct–16 Nov (DTh, AB, RLC); 1 was at Mohawk P in Cedar Rapids 27–29 Oct (JF, BSc, BCC, JLF, JWR); 1 was at Cedar L *Chickasaw* 27-28 Oct (BCC); 1 was at Spirit L *Dickinson* 28 Oct (LAS); 1 was at Red Rock Res *Marion* 11 Nov (TGS).

Common Loon: Peaked in the first 8 days of November. High counts were 40 at Coralville L *Johnson* on 3 Nov (JF), 87 at Saylorville Res *Polk* on 5 Nov (AB, BE), 91 at Clear L *Cerro Gordo* 6 Nov (BVL, RG), and 81 at Red Rock Res *Marion* on 8 Nov (eBird).

YELLOW-BILLED LOON: Iowa's 5th record was found by Carolyn Fischer at Clear Lake *Cerro Gordo* 7 Nov (*CJF–photo, *BVL–photo).

Neotropic Cormorant: No reports.

Double-crested Cormorant: 2482 were counted at HHW *Pottawattamie* 7 Oct (BT). Two weeks later, the season's high count was 3655 on 21–22 Oct at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB, BE).

American White Pelican: Some of the largest concentrations were 2000 at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* 22 Aug (LGR, eBird), 1600 at Saylorville Res *Polk* on 26 Aug (eBird), 5000 at Port Louisa NWR *Louisa* 8 Sep (eBird), and 2619 at HHW *Pottawattamie* 7 Oct (BT). Small groups lingered through the end of the season at many locations (m.ob.)

American Bittern: Last few: 1 on 29 Sep at Errington M *Polk* (RLC), 1 on 7–12 Oct in rural *Floyd* (BVL, RG), and 1 on 25 Oct in Iowa City (JLF).

Least Bittern: Three on 23 Aug at Trumbull L *Clay* (LGR) and 2 on 29 Aug at Green Island *Jackson* (eBird) were the last.

Great Egret: Gathered in large numbers in August at Green Island *Jackson*. 450 were counted there on 12 Aug and 388 on 29 Aug (eBird).

Snowy Egret: Two were at Ada Hayden P *Story* 17 Aug (SJD); 1 was at New Lake *Woodbury* 23 Sep (GLV); at least 2 different individuals were found by AB in the Des Moines area 26 Sep–8 Oct, before JB found an amazing 9 at Water Works P 13 Oct.

Little Blue Heron: A white immature was at Little Swan L *Dickinson* 17–30 Sep (LAS-details).

Cattle Egret: From 1–5 were reported from *Dubuque*, *Johnson*, *Madison*, *Marion*, *Polk* and *Warren*. The last few were 3 on 4 Oct in *Polk* (AB), and 1 on 6 Oct at Deere Dike *Dubuque* (eBird).

Green Heron: A total of 9 were counted 25 Sep at Martin L *Black Hawk* (DGE). The last two were reported on 8 Oct, one at Prairie Lakes P *Black Hawk*, and another at Green Castle *Marshall* (eBird).

Black-crowned Night Heron: Was widely reported from wetlands across the state. The most was 5 on 6 Oct at Prairie Lakes P *Black Hawk* (DGE). Juveniles of this species often linger late, so an eBird report of 1 at Sweet Marsh *Bremer* on 27 Nov fits the pattern.

Yellow-crowned Night Heron: An immature was at Zirbel Sl *Cerro Gordo* 14–15 Sep (BVL, RG).

White-faced Ibis: The last were 2 on 11 Oct at Otter Creek M *Tama* (JF).

***Plegadis* species**: Most Ibis reports did not identify the species because of the difficulty in separating the two candidates in fall, particularly when seen in flight. Some noteworthy counts were 25 on 30 Sep at Forney L *Fremont* (eBird), 7 on 4 Oct at Owego wetlands *Woodbury* (GLV), 9 overhead on 7 Oct at Coralville L *Johnson* (JF), and 17 on 9 Oct at DeSoto NWR *Harrison* (eBird). The last was 1 on 21 Oct at L Manawa *Pottawattamie* (eBird).

BLACK VULTURE: One was spotted overhead between the towns of Fayette and West Union *Fayette* on 21 Oct (*PDBS).

Turkey Vulture: 3986 counted at the hawk watch at Hitchcock NC *Pottawattamie* was the 4th highest total in 16 years (BT). Most (3075) passed through in October, with 531 alone on 1 Oct. At Grammer Grove *Marshall*, the season total of 676 was just 5 short of their record total (MP). The high count there was 144 on 7 Oct. Away from the hawk watches, 256 on 8 Oct at the High Trestle Trail bridge *Boone* was the high count (eBird). The last was a very late bird at Hitchcock on 24 Nov 30 days after the previous one counted there (BT).

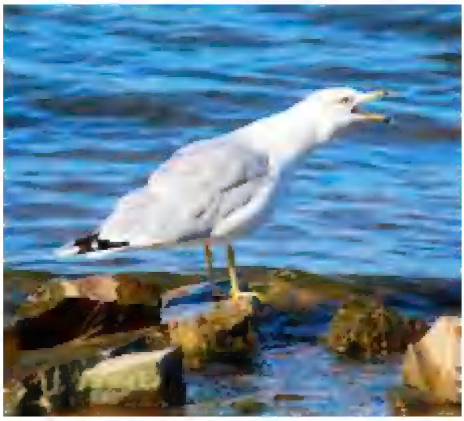
Osprey: Totals at the hawk watches were unremarkable. Reported in small numbers of 1–4 from 30 counties, except for 13 on 8 Oct at the High Trestle Trail bridge *Boone* (eBird). The last was a late individual on 12 Nov in Cedar Rapids (BSc).

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE: A single perched bird was photographed 15

Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Saylorville Res, Polk, *2 September 2017. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.*

Killdeer, Jester Park, Polk, *12 September 2017. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.*

Ruddy Turnstone, Red Rock Reservoir, Marion, *19 August 2017. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.*



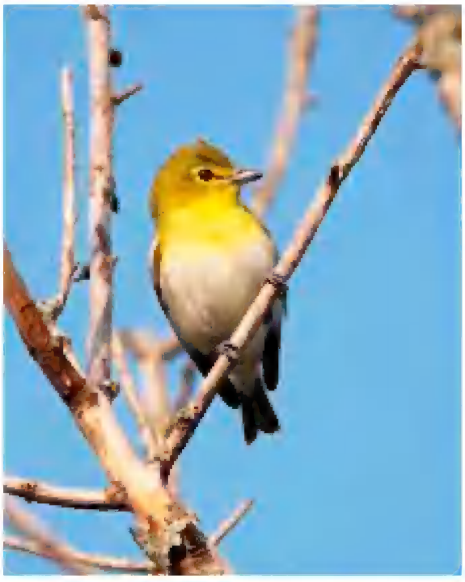
Ring-billed Gull, Saylorville Res, Polk, *8 August 2017. Photograph by Doug Harr, Ogden, IA.*

Sora, Jester Park, Polk, *12 September 2017. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.*

Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Ogden, Boone, *5 September 2017. Photograph by Doug Harr, Ogden, IA.*

Northern Flicker, Jester Park, Polk*, 12 September 2017. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.*

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Lake Macbride, Johnson*, 16 September 2017. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*



Yellow-throated Vireo, Sugar Bottom RA, Johnson*, 1 September 2017. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*

Orange-crowned Warbler, Boone*, 6 September 2017. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.*

White-throated Sparrow, Spring Run, Dickinson, *8 October 2017. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*

Song Sparrow, Spring Run, Dickinson, *8 October 2017. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*

Savannah Sparrow, Polk, *5 October 2017. Photograph by Reid Allen, West Des Moines, IA.*

Common Redpoll, Jester Park, Polk, *24 November 2017. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*

LeConte's Sparrow, Polk, *5 October 2017. Photograph by Reid Allen, West Des Moines, IA.*

Fox Sparrow, Spring Run, Dickinson, *8 October 2017. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*

Sep in Harrison (*Patrick Swanson–photo).

Mississippi Kite: Reported in small numbers from the city of Des Moines where they are known to nest, and from the HHW *Pottawattamie* where 4 individuals were counted (BT). The last at Hitchcock was 1 on 19 Sep (BT), and the last in Des Moines was 1 at Ashworth P on 20 Sep (DCH).

Bald Eagle: At HHW *Pottawattamie*, the season total of 401 was a record low total (BT). By comparison, the high count was 1153 in 2011. At Grammer Grove hawk watch *Marshall*, the season total of 442 was slightly above their 28-year average (MP).

Northern Harrier: At both hawk watches, totals were low. At HHW *Pottawattamie*, the season total of 143 was below the 10-year average of 217. The high count there was 17 on 19 Oct (BT). Elsewhere, some high counts were 11 on 9 Oct at Big Marsh *Butler* (DGE), 8 on 19 Oct in *Woodbury* (GLV), and 9 on 21 Nov at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (eBird).

Sharp-shinned Hawk: The first was 1 spotted 3 Sep from the hawk watch tower at HHW *Pottawattamie* (BT), where the season total was just under the 10-year average. 40% of all birds counted there occurred in the third week of October. The high count of 35 at Grammer Grove *Marshall* occurred twice, once on 23 Sep and again on 7 Oct (MP).

Cooper's Hawk: The season total of 33 at Grammer Grove *Marshall* was the 3rd-lowest total in 28 years. The high count there was 4 on 24 Oct (MP). At HHW *Pottawattamie*, totals were more typical. The high count of 15 occurred three times between 11 Sep and 13 Oct (BT).

Northern Goshawk: The only sightings were the 9 at HHW *Pottawattamie*, which was the 2nd-highest season total there (BT). The first two were on 17 Sep and 26 Sep and were followed by four October reports and two November reports.

Red-shouldered Hawk: The only reports away from eastern and central Iowa were a handful from the far west. One was in *Adams* on 4 Nov, and another was in *Fremont* on 14 Nov (eBird). Six others were counted in flight from the tower at HHW *Pottawattamie* 28 Sep–17 Oct (BT).

Broad-winged Hawk: An unprecedented 4405 were counted at Grammer Grove hawk watch *Marshall*, far surpassing the previous season total of 1703 (MP). On 20 Sep alone 1332 were counted there followed by another 798 the next day. Other high counts were 250 on 20 Sep in *Johnson* (eBird), and 359 on 4 Oct at HHW *Pottawattamie* (BT). The last was 1 on 9 Oct at Hitchcock (BT).

Swainson's Hawk: For the third consecutive year, the total at HHW *Pottawattamie* was less than 100 individuals. The most there was 26 on 8 Oct (BT). Away from the far west, 1 was in *Black Hawk* on 17 Sep (TGS) and another was at Water Works P *Polk* on 22 Sep (JB). The last 3 were on 9 Oct at HHW (BT).

Red-tailed Hawk: Season totals were slightly under the 10-year average at both hawk watches. Highest daily counts at both occurred in the first half of October.

Rough-legged Hawk: The first was 1 on 11 Oct at HHW *Pottawattamie* (BT). Steady reports of singles or 2 birds began

in late October except for 8 on 1 Nov in *Woodbury* (GLV).

FERRUGINOUS HAWK: Two are mentioned in the HHW *Pottawattamie* data reports, 1 on 9 Oct and another on 18 Oct (BT)

Golden Eagle: The first two were observed 26 Sep from the HHW tower *Pottawattamie* (BT). Statewide, there were 2 September reports, 8 October reports and 16 November reports. The most was 3 on 29 Nov along highway A26 *Allamakee* (JF).

Barn Owl: Reported from two private properties, one near Mines of Spain *Dubuque* (eBird), and another in rural *Clay* (Donnie Savre *fide* LAS), and from the town of Alta Vista *Chickasaw* where an adult was quite vocal during evenings in September (PH, Ryan Shackleton).

Snowy Owl: 21 reports was the most in fall since the 29 recorded in the fall of 1976 (Halmi 1977). Almost all sightings were in the east with 1 in *Wright* and 1 in *Webster* west-most of the reports. The first was 1 on 31 Oct in rural *Benton* (JF, JLF). Of 8 birds aged, only one was judged to be an adult.

Long-eared Owl: The first was 1 on 31 Oct at Water Works P in the city of Des Moines (JB, AB). This was followed by 2 on 19 Nov at Nagle WA *Floyd* (RG, BVL), 1 on 26 Nov at Moorehead P *Ida* (eBird), 1 on 26 Nov at Leopold Woods *Story* (eBird), and 2 on 27 Nov at Yellow Banks P *Polk* (DTh).

Short-eared Owl: The first was 1 on 20 Oct at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* (KVS) where sightings continued throughout the remainder of the season. The most was up to 8 at a time at Owego wetlands *Woodbury* 9–25 Nov (GLV, eBird). Also reported from *Clay*, *Johnson*, *Kossuth*, *Muscatine*, *Sac*, *Sioux* and *Worth*.

Northern Saw-whet Owl: Banding began at Hitchcock NA *Pottawattamie* in the second week of October. The only other October report was 1 on 31 Oct at Grammer Grove *Marshall* (MP). 1 or 2 were reported from *Black Hawk*, *Cerro Gordo*, *Ida* and *Worth* (m.ob.) in November.

Red-headed Woodpecker: 1132 were counted in migration past the Hitchcock NC *Pottawattamie* hawk watch tower during the 11-day period 3–13 Sep (BT). The peak was 376 on 12 Sep.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: The many sightings during the summer months (Dinsmore 2017), particularly in the easternmost counties, make it impossible to identify the first found migrant. The first away from the Mississippi R was an eBird report of 1 on 11 Aug in *Dickinson*.

Northern Flicker: A red-shafted individual visited a feeder in Mason City 11–30 Nov (CJF).

Pileated Woodpecker: Reported in thin numbers from riparian habitat in primarily eastern counties or along the Des Moines R. Exceptions were several reports from *Cherokee* and *Pottawattamie* in the far west.

American Kestrel: At HHW in *Pottawattamie*, the season total of 39 was an all-time low (BT). The 10-year trend analysis there shows a steady 4% decline per year. At Grammer Grove *Marshall*, the season total of 14 also was low, although not quite record-low (MP). Peak migration across the state occurred in the last week of September and first week of October.

American Kestrel, Lake Macbride, Johnson, *29 September 2017. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*

Merlin: The first few were found in late Aug – 1 on 25 Aug in rural *Polk* (DAk), 1 on 27 Aug at Chichaqua *Polk* (eBird), and 1 on 28 Aug at Green Island *Jackson* (eBird). The first returns at the Glendale Cemetery in the city of Des Moines were noticed 19 Oct (AB). The most was 10 counted at HHW *Pottawattamie* on 9 Oct (BT).

GYRFALCON: A juvenile dark intermediate morph was found perched on supports holding netting over a pheasant farm in rural *Howard* on 29 Nov (*Ryan Shackleton-photo). Good photos were obtained when the bird hovered a couple of times as if looking for a break in the netting.

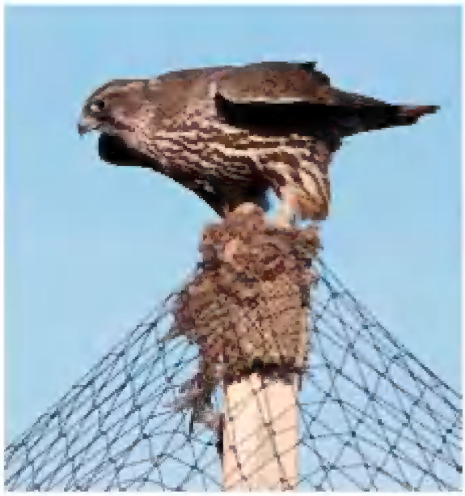
Peregrine Falcon: The season total of 18 at the Grammer Grove hawk watch *Marshall* was a new historical record (MP). In 28 years of observation, the previous record was 14 (2008). The high count of 7 occurred there on 7 Oct. Other high counts were 18 on 3 Oct at HHW *Pottawattamie* (BT), and 5 on 8 Oct counted from the High Trestle Trail bridge *Boone* (eBird).

Prairie Falcon: Three were spotted from the HHW tower *Pottawattamie* on 26 Sep, 29 Sep and 18 Nov (BT). Another was identified in rural *Cherokee* 4 Nov (DAk).

Olive-sided Flycatcher: The first was found 5 Aug at the Lime Creek Conservation Area *Cerro Gordo* (BVL). The most was 4 counted at the Chichaqua Greenbelt *Polk* on 9 Sep (RLC). The last was 1 on 21 Sep at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC).

Eastern Wood-Pewee: The last three were eBird reports on 1 Oct in *Dubuque*, 2 Oct in *Linn* and 3 Oct in *Jackson*.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: The first was visible and vocalizing along the Winnebago R in Mason City 5 Aug (PH), which ties the record early date. The next was 1 at Parker's Woods *Cerro Gordo* on 18 Aug (BVL). Widely reported but in



Gyrfalcon, Howard, *29 November 2017. Photograph by Ryan Shackleton, Alta Vista, IA.*

very small numbers until the last on 23 Sep in *Scott* (eBird).

Acadian Flycatcher: A calling bird at Terra P *Polk* on 4 Oct was the westmost report (KVS). The last was 1 on 9 Sep at Deere Dike *Dubuque* (eBird).

Alder Flycatcher: After a summer with no reports, the first migrant was 1 on 17 Aug in *Sioux* (eBird). The last *empidonax* confirmed as this species was 1 on 1 Sep at Ledges SP Boone (DCH).

Willow Flycatcher: The last was 1 on 6 Sep at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC). eBird reports of Willow/Alder types continued until 11 Sep in the Saylorville area.

Least Flycatcher: The last three were eBird reports on 24 Sep in *Black Hawk*, *Johnson* and *Polk*.

***Empidonax* species**: Three small flycatchers in a *Sioux* yard on 29 Sep were left unidentified.

Eastern Phoebe: The last was a single, well-described individual on 2 Nov at Fairmount Cemetery *Scott* (eBird).

Great Crested Flycatcher: Steady reports continued through the 2nd week of September, then ended abruptly with 2 on the 17th and the last on 20 Sep at Water Works P in the city of Des Moines (eBird).

Western Kingbird: The last in central Iowa was 1 on 12 Aug at Saylorville Res *Polk* (DTh). In the west, the last was 1 on 19 Aug in Sioux City (GLV).

Eastern Kingbird: The most was 56 on 24 Aug in *Buena Vista* (DAk). The last was 2 on 17 Sep at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (eBird).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: no reports.

Loggerhead Shrike: The last two reports were from *Johnson* in late October, one on 21 Oct and another on 23 Oct (JF, JLF).

Northern Shrike: The first few were reported on 22 Oct in *Clay*, *Johnson*, and *Sac* (LAS, JF, EB) which is the median arrival date over the last 10 years.

White-eyed Vireo: The only two reports were 1 on 16 Aug at Rock Creek P *Clinton* (eBird), and 1 on 12 Sep at Pleasant Creek P *Linn* (JF).

Bell's Vireo: The last few reports were 1 on 8 Sep at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* (KVS), 1 on 8 Sep at Saylorville Res *Polk* (eBird), and 1 on 10 Sep at Prairie Rose SP *Shelby* (eBird).

Yellow-throated Vireo: The last 3 were in the east, on 25 Sep at F.W. Kent P *Johnson* and Mines of Spain SRA *Dubuque* (LGR, eBird), and on 26 Sep at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (eBird).

Blue-headed Vireo: Daily reports began abruptly on 28 Aug with an eBird report of 1 at Gull Point SP *Dickinson* and continued steadily until about the end of the first week of October. After that, sightings dropped off quickly and ended with 1 on 2 Nov at Newton Union Cemetery *Jasper* (AB).

Philadelphia Vireo: The first was 1 on 20 Aug at Squaw Creek P *Linn* (eBird). The last was 1 on 4 Oct at Shaver P *Linn* (BSc).

Warbling Vireo: The last few were individuals on 12 Sep at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* and Water Works P *Polk*, followed by 1 on 15 Sep along the Trestle Trail *Polk* (BCC, JB, KVS).

Red-eyed Vireo: High counts: On 3 Sep, 22 were counted at Red Feather Prairie *Polk*, and 26 were counted in *Story* (RLC, DAk). The last was 1 at Brookside P in Ames on 8 Oct (eBird).

Blue Jay: 2398 migrants were counted on 26 Sep at the Hitchcock NC tower *Pottawattamie* (BT).

Black-billed Magpie: No reports.

COMMON RAVEN: On 24 Oct, a fixed trail camera at the Broken Kettle Grasslands *Plymouth* captured a single individual visiting a bison carcass (*Daniel Smith-photo).

Common Raven, Broken Kettle Grasslands, Plymouth, *24 October 2017. Photo courtesy of Daniel Smith.*

Purple Martin: Began gathering in early August. Some concentrations were 95 on 4 Aug at DeSoto NWR *Harrison* (eBird), 110 on 12 Aug at Brenton Sl *Dallas* (eBird), and 400 on 12 Aug at Maskunky M *Mahaska* (eBird). Counting by 50s, AB estimated the high count of 1650 on 20 Aug at L Manawa *Pottawattamie*. None were found after 2 at Jester P *Polk* on 29 Aug (eBird).

Tree Swallow: The most was an eBird report of 3200 on 15 Oct in the air over Saylorville Res *Polk*. Also hosting 1000+ was Red Rock Res *Marion* on 6 Aug (DAk) and Markham's Pond *Mitchell* on 9 Sep (eBird). The last 6 were found over L Macbride *Johnson* on 14 Nov (eBird).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: Gathering in August, they were pretty much gone by September. The peak count was 120 on 6 Aug at Red Rock Res *Marion* (DAk). The last was a very late individual on 12 Oct at Water Works P *Polk*, a full month after the previous report (AB–details).

Bank Swallow: The last few were 10 on 10 Sep at DeSoto NWR *Harrison*, 5 on 11 Sep at Union Slough NWR *Kossuth*, and 27 in rural *Sioux* on 12 Sep (eBird).

Cliff Swallow: The last 4 were found 5 Oct at Dunbar Sl *Greene* (eBird).

Barn Swallow: The most was 200 on 6 Aug at Red Rock Res *Marion* (DAk). Last was close to record late on 18 Nov at Rathbun L *Appanoose* (TNJ).

Tufted Titmouse: Reports away from its usual territories were 1 in *Cerro Gordo* on 28 Sep (CJF), at least 1 in *Mills* on 22 Oct (eBird), and up to 3 in *Pottawattamie* as late as 14 Nov (eBird).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: A significant influx this fall started early with 2 reports in August: 1 on 23 Aug at L Meyer P *Winneshiek* (LR), and 1 on 30 Aug at Parker's Woods *Cerro Gordo* (BVL). Reports came from an impressive 51 counties, and included counts of 10 in *Polk* on 4 Nov, 16 in *Muscatine* on 1 Nov, and 20 in *Franklin* on 28 Oct (DAk, eBird).

Brown Creeper: After a handful of summer reports from the Mississippi R lowlands (Dinsmore 2017), the first few fall reports from other parts of the state were 1 on 4 Aug at Spirit L *Dickinson*, and 1 on 20 Sep at Parker's Woods *Cerro*

Gordo (BVL, eBird). The most was 8 on 18 Oct at Hampton Cemetery *Franklin* (DAk).

House Wren: The last two were 1 on 15 Oct at Terra P *Polk* and 1 on 22 Oct at Rathbun L *Appanoose* (KVS, RLC).

Winter Wren: After a summer with no reports, migrants began to trickle in during mid-September. The first arrivals were reported on 10 Sep in *Greene*, 16 Sep in *Marion*, 20 Sep in *Jackson* and *Linn*, and 28 Sep in *Marshall* (MP, eBird). The most was 4 on 1 Oct at Lime Creek *Cerro Gordo* and on 4 Oct at Grammer Grove *Marshall* (BVL, MP).

Sedge Wren: Easy to find at Errington M *Polk* where 14 were counted 10 Aug (RLC), and Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* where 35 were counted 12 Aug (eBird). The last two were at Errington M and Chichaqua Greenbelt *Polk* on 22 Oct (AB).

Marsh Wren: The most was 19 on 6 Sep at Oak Grove RA *Polk* (RLC). The last few were singles on 27 Oct at Deere Dike *Dubuque*, 29 Oct at Anderson Goose L *Hamilton*, and 2 Nov at Shield Prairie *Muscatine* (eBird).

Carolina Wren: Normally found in the east and central, this species was reported irregularly in the west from *Humboldt*, *Adair*, *Fremont*, *Pottawattamie*, *Mills*, *Harrison* and *Woodbury* (MCK, eBird).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: The last was 1 on 27 Sep at Green Island WA *Jackson* (eBird).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: The first few appeared on the 10-year median arrival date of 29 Sep at Prairie Ridge *Black Hawk*, Hickory Hill P *Johnson*, and L Macbride *Johnson* (MHB, eBird). In October, counts of 20 or more were made at Wildcat Den SP *Muscatine*, Ciha Fen Preserve *Johnson*, Prairie P *Linn*, Mercer Grove *Pocahontas*, Fairmount Cemetery *Scott*, and Hampton Cemetery *Franklin* (DAk, eBird). Reports continued through the end of the season.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: The first was 2 on 22 Aug at Ledges SP (DCH). The last was an eBird report of 1 at Dry Run Creek *Black Hawk* on 5 Nov.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Boone, *9 October 2017. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.*

Eastern Bluebird: Groups of 20 or more were reported from *Black Hawk*, *Boone*, *Cherokee*, *Johnson*, *Pocahontas*, *Polk*, *O'Brien*, and *Tama* (DAk, eBird), with the most 55 on 1 Nov at Rathbun L *Appanoose* (TNJ).

Townsend's Solitaire: One was at Broken Kettle Grasslands *Plymouth* 17 Oct (DAk), another was in *O'Brien* 4 Nov (DAk), and another was found along Iverson Bridge Rd, *Allamakee* 29 Nov (JF).

Veery: The last few reports were 1 on 2 Sep at Grammer Grove *Marshall* (MP), and 1 on 9 Sep at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (eBird).

Gray-cheeked Thrush: Seldom encountered in the fall, this species was reported 10 times from wooded locations in central and eastern counties (BVL, RG, eBird). The last with details appearing to separate the bird from Hermit Thrush or Swainson's Thrush was 1 on 8 Oct at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (eBird).

Swainson's Thrush: There were 70 reports from all parts of the state, with the most 6 counted on 17 Sep at Hartman Reserve *Black Hawk* (eBird). The first was 1 on 23 Aug at Parker's Woods *Cerro Gordo* (RG, BVL). The last two were 1 photographed in Jim Durbin's Marion yard *Linn* on 3 Oct, and another found during a field trip in *Black Hawk* on 4 Oct (FLM).

Hermit Thrush: The first few were 1 on 28 Sep at Ledges SP *Boone* (DCH) followed by 1 on 1 Oct at Lime Creek *Cerro Gordo* (BVL) and another on 1 Oct at New Albin *Allamakee* (eBird).

Wood Thrush: The last was 1 on 7 Oct in a Marion *Linn* yard (Jim Durbin).

American Robin: A few of the large movements recorded were 950 on 29 Oct at Littlefield P *Audubon* (DAk), 1200 on 21 Oct in *Boone* (eBird), and 1524 counted 31 Oct from the Hitchcock NC tower *Pottawattamie* (BT).

Gray Catbird: A late bird was found 20 Nov at Port Louisa NWR *Louisa* (eBird).

Northern Mockingbird: All: 1 on 16 Aug at Swan L *Johnson* (MHB), 1 on 6 Sep at Sun Valley L *Ringgold* (MP), 1 on 22 Oct in rural *Iowa* (JF), and 3 on 29 Nov in *Louisa* (eBird).

Bohemian Waxwing: No reports.

Cedar Waxwing: The first indications of flocking were 140 on 29 Oct at Winterset Cemetery *Madison*, followed by 170 on 4 Nov at Waterman Creek *O'Brien* (DAk).

Eurasian Tree Sparrow: Reported from 12 eastern counties in its established range (m.ob., eBird) plus a single individual on 5 Sep in *Story* (DAk) which may have been the same bird reported in July (Dinsmore 2017). The most was 40 in mid-October at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (eBird).

American Pipit: The first arrivals were 6 found 13 Sep at Oak Grove RA *Polk* followed by additional sightings of small groups in September in *Ringgold*, *Dubuque,* and *Polk* (eBird). The most was 80 on 29 Oct in an agricultural field south of Brenton Arboretum *Dallas* (AB).

Purple Finch: The first was a single female on 21 September at a feeder in Norwalk *Warren* (AMJ). The most was 16 on 27 Oct at Lake Meyer County P *Winneshiek* (LR).

Common Redpoll: First found 24 October when 2 were encountered at Hampton Cemetery *Franklin* and 4 in Ottosen *Humboldt* (RG, BVL, JN). Reports became regular, but flock size remained small, except for 40 on 18 Nov at Luton WA *Woodbury* (GLV), 25 on 22 Nov at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* (KVS), and 18 on 24 Nov at Saylorville Res *Polk* (MHB).

Red Crossbill: The first few were found early when they stopped briefly at private feeders in August. At least 3 were in *Woodbury* on 8 Aug (Carol Blair) and another was photographed in Mercer Grove *Pocahontas* on 14–15 Aug (eBird). Together with 2 additional reports over the next 2 months, these modest early sightings did not indicate that the season would finish with a total of 114 reports.

Starting abruptly on 13 Oct with 20 found at Riverside Cemetery *Kossuth* (MCK), sightings quickly increased across the state, prompting birders to seek out crossbills in their field trips which, in turn, contributed to the still increasing numbers of reports. There were 42 reports in the last week of October alone, and another 30 in the first week of November. By the time the season ended, reports had come from all parts of the state except for the southern-most row of counties bordering Missouri. 77 reports were of counts of 1–10 birds, 22 consisted of groups of 11–20 birds, 10 were of 21–30 birds, and 5 reports were of groups larger than 30 birds. The most was a dynamic flock of at least 65 individuals first found 29 Oct at the Nevada Cemetery *Story* (JB) and lingering in the area until 4 Nov. Some observers were able to make recordings of the calls made by the crossbills and then obtained Cornell Lab confirmation of the types present (AB, eBird). Type 2 Red Crossbills were confirmed for groups of 2, 3, 3, 5, and 17 birds. Type 4 Red Crossbills were confirmed for groups of 2, 5 and 13 birds. Type 5 Red Crossbills were confirmed for groups of 2 and 3 birds.

White-winged Crossbill: There were nine reports from eight counties, starting with a single, statistically-early juvenile persisting at a feeder in Norwalk *Warren* 25 Oct–10 Nov (JG). The most was a group of 15 on 29 Oct at Graceland P Cemetery *Woodbury* (GLV). Also reported: 10 on 29 Oct in *Madison*, 8 on 28 Oct in *Franklin*, 3 on 2 Nov in *Story*, 2 on 30 Oct in *Story*, 1 on 28 Oct in *Marion*, 1 on 5 Nov in *Dickinson*, and 1 on 8 Nov in *Jefferson* (DAk, DCP, GLV, LAS, TGS, eBird).

Pine Siskin: The first was a report of 2 on 11 Sep at Red Feather Prairie *Polk* (RLC) and was followed by 5 additional September reports of 1–3 birds from *Dubuque*, *Kossuth*, *Polk,* and *Story* (JB, eBird). Both the numbers of reports and flock size increased in October and held through the season. There were ten counts of 25 or more individuals, with the most noteworthy 35 on 12 Oct at Kellerton WA *Ringgold* (eBird), 35 on 12 Nov at Linwood Cemetery *Dubuque* (KVS), and 64 at Oakland Cemetery *Johnson* in late October (MHB, BCC, CRE).

Pine Siskin, Ogden, Boone, *7 November 2017. Photograph by Doug Harr, Ogden, IA.*

Lapland Longspur: The first was a flock of 250 on 27 Oct in rural *Kossuth* (eBird), after which reports were fairly steady. Two reports in excess of 500 individuals were 600 on 4 Nov in rural *Sioux* (JJ), and 800 on 31 Oct in rural *Benton* (BCC).

Smith's Longspur: The first were up to 4 at a time on private property in *Floyd* 7–12 Oct (BVL, RG, PH). These were followed by 3 in *Dickinson* on 15

Oct (eBird), 8 in rural *Sac* on 25 Oct (Elizabeth Blessington), 4 in rural *Kossuth* on 26 Oct (eBird), and 2 in rural *Benton* on 31 Oct (BCC).

Snow Bunting: The first, and only October report was a group of 8 on 30 Oct at Grundy County L *Grundy* (eBird). In November, some high counts were 40 on 6 Nov at Harper's Sl *Allamakee* (eBird), 60 on 11 Nov at Pool 10 *Clayton* (DAk), 30 on 24 Nov at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (eBird), and 25 on 24 Nov at Myre Sl *Winnebago* (JB).

Eastern Towhee: Most reports were of 1–5 individuals except for 6 on 5 Aug at Pike Run WA *Muscatine* (eBird), and 7 on 5 Aug at Grammer Grove *Marshall* (eBird). Reports ended with 1 on 14 Nov at George Wyth SP *Black Hawk*.

Eastern Towhee, Boone*, 20 August 2017. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.*

Spotted Towhee: One found on 11 Aug at Oak Grove County P *Sioux* may have spent the summer in the area. The only other report was 2 on 17 Oct at Broken Kettle Grasslands *Plymouth* (DAk). There were six eBird reports of towhees left unidentified to species.

American Tree Sparrow: The first was 2 on 12 Oct in Ogden *Boone* (DCH) the earliest since 2011, but it was followed immediately by steady reports from other parts of the state. By early November, flock size had increased with at least 5 reports of 50 or more individuals. The most was 150 on 9 Nov at Plum Creek WA *Kossuth* (eBird).

Chipping Sparrow: Some high counts were 45 on 5 Oct at Littlefield P *Audubon* (DAk), and 50 on 21 Oct at Oakland Cemetery *Johnson* (eBird). Reports continued through the end of the season.

Clay-colored Sparrow: The significance of the early fall reports are difficult to judge since this species can be found in August still vocalizing on territories in the northern tier of counties. Two late September reports were from *Sioux* where the species also likely breeds. By October, we should expect to find an abundance of migrants, but there were only six reports and only two confirmations by photograph, both on 4 Oct, in *Linn* (Jim Durbin) and *Johnson* (BCC). Four later reports had modest details with the last occurring on 4 Nov.

Field Sparrow: The most was 17 on 1 Aug at Gitchie Manitou State Preserve *Lyon* (eBird). The last few sightings extended into November with the very last 1 on 10 Nov at Fairmount Cemetery *Scott* (eBird).

Vesper Sparrow: The last few were found in early November, 2 on 2 Nov in *Muscatine*, and 1 on 4 Nov in *Buena Vista* (DAk, eBird).

Lark Sparrow: The last and only September report was 6 at Chichaqua Greenbelt *Polk* on 9 Sep (RLC).

Savannah Sparrow: In October,

some high counts were 40 at Lizard L *Pocahontas*, 39 at Moeckly Prairie *Polk*, 38 at Chichaqua Greenbelt *Polk*, and 50 at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* (eBird). The last found were 4 in rural *Sioux* on 4 Nov (JJ).

Grasshopper Sparrow: The last were two eBird reports from *Kossuth* – 1 on 30 Sep near Titonka, and 1on 11 Oct near Algona.

Henslow's Sparrow: Still singing in mid-late August at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper*, Hitaga Sand Ridge *Linn* and Union Sl NWR *Kossuth* (KVS, MHB, eBird). The last was 1 on 28 Sep in rural *Kossuth* (eBird).

LeConte's Sparrow: First found 23 Sep in *Sioux* (JJ) followed by 1 on 25 Sep at Pintail M *Hardin* (MP). The median arrival over the last 30 years is 21 September. Some high counts were 11 at 22 Oct at Aldo Leopold WA *Bremer* (DGE), and 12 at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* (eBird). The last 9 were found on 3 Nov in rural *Pottawattamie* (eBird).

LeConte's Sparrow, Spring Run, Dickinson, *8 October 2017. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*

Nelson's Sparrow: The first few were 3 on 25 Sep at Pintail M *Hardin* (MP), and 2 on 26 Sep at Zirbel Sl *Cerro Gordo* (RG, BVL). No one reported more than 3 birds at a time. The last sighting on 22 Oct at Errington M *Polk* (AB) was getting late.

Fox Sparrow: The first few were found on 4 Oct at two locations, Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (BCC), and Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC). Reports were evenly distributed east-to-west with the most 15 on 1 Nov in *Woodbury* (GLV), but also 14 on 4 Oct in *Muscatine* (eBird) and another 14 on 4 Oct in *O'Brien* (DAk). The last was 1 on 25 Nov at Jester P *Polk* (RLC).

Song Sparrow: The most was 40 at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* on 17 Oct (eBird).

Lincoln's Sparrow: Five on 5 Sep at Schildberg RA *Cass* (eBird) were a week on the early side of the median arrival date. Steady reports didn't really start until about 14 September but continued until the end of October. Reported from all parts of the state until the last 2 on 5 Nov in *Sioux* (JJ).

Swamp Sparrow: The most was a count of 155 on 7 Oct at Sedan *Appanoose* (TNJ). Another 107 were at Errington M *Polk* 22 Oct (eBird).

White-throated Sparrow: The first was a pocket of 5 on 20 Sep at Parker's Woods *Cerro Gordo* (BVL). Larger groups were first noted with 30 on 27 Sep in *Jasper* and 25 on 29 Sep in *Polk* (KVS, eBird). Counts of 50 or more were made in *Audubon*, *Dallas*, *Humboldt*, *Johnson*, *Polk*, *Sioux* and *Story* with the most 100 estimated at Chichaqua Greenbelt *Polk* on 21 Oct (eBird).

Harris's Sparrow: The first were found a bit late when 9 arrived in Karla

Junger's *Sioux* yard 29 Sep. The median arrival date over the last 30 years is 25 September. The most were also in the Jungers' yard when 45 were counted there on 1 Nov. Another high count was 35 on 17 Oct at Broken Kettle Plymouth (DAk). Steady reports continued through the end of the season.

White-crowned Sparrow: The first was 1 on 23 Sep at Prairie Lakes P *Black Hawk* (eBird). Reports of 1–5 continued until 13 Oct when spikes of 14–20 began to appear in reports from *Appanoose*, *Johnson* and *Story* (RLC, eBird). Sightings spanned the state from east-to-west and from north-to-south until the last 4 on 16 Nov at Cone M *Louisa* (eBird).

Dark-eyed Junco: The first was in the Durbin's Marion yard *Linn* on 29 Sep followed by 3 in *Story* and 4 in *Cerro Gordo* on 30 Sep (JB, BVL).

Yellow-breasted Chat: After a summer with more reports than usual (Dinsmore 2017), there were no fall reports.

Yellow-headed Blackbird: The last was a group of 4 at Spirit L *Dickinson* 28 Oct (eBird).

Bobolink: The most was 35 at Union Sl NWR *Kossuth* on 15 Aug (eBird), and the last was 6 at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* 5 Oct (BCC).

Eastern Meadowlark: Approximately 30 meadowlarks on 7 Oct in rural *Floyd* was the most, with many giving the Eastern call note, but not all identified to species (BVL, PH). The last Eastern reported at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* was on 20 Oct (KVS). A few eBird reports came later with the last in *Polk* on 29 Oct.

Western Meadowlark: Reported in the far west well into late November, including *Harrison*, *Monona* and *Woodbury* (eBird).

Orchard Oriole: The last that was not enticed by jelly was 1 on 4 Sep at Jester P *Polk* (MHB). The very last was 1 on 16 Sep at the Jungers' jelly feeder in *Sioux*.

Baltimore Oriole: The last was 1 on 25 Sep at Mines of Spain *Dubuque* (eBird).

Rusty Blackbird: The first 3 were at Goose Pond *Linn* on 3 Oct (JF). Reports were steady through mid-November, with the most 300 on 11 Nov in *Dickinson* (LAS).

Brewer's Blackbird: The first report was 6 on 10 Oct in *Kossuth* (eBird). This was soon followed by larger flocks of 35 in *Woodbury* on 15 Oct and 60 in *Dickinson* on 28 Oct (eBird). On 31 Oct, Rita Goranson encountered approximately 100 at Ventura M *Cerro Gordo*, commenting "I have never seen such a huge flock of Brewer's." It was the most of the season. The last was 2 in *Sioux* on 13 Nov (JJ).

Great-tailed Grackle: The most was 15 at Dunbar Sl *Greene* on 1 Sep (DTh). The last report was an unspecified number on 7 Nov in *Mills* (eBird).

Ovenbird: The last three were October birds, 1 on 3 Oct at Water Works P *Polk*, 1 on 4 Oct at Volga River *Fayette*, and 1 on 21 Oct at Hartman Reserve *Black Hawk* (JB, eBird).

Louisiana Waterthrush: The only report was 1 on 16 Aug at Bloody Run P *Clayton* (DAk).

Northern Waterthrush: The first was 1 on 18 Aug at Parker's Woods *Cerro Gordo* (BVL), and the last was 1 on 27 Sep at Green Island *Jackson* (eBird).

Golden-winged Warbler: There were no reports west of Ledges SP *Boone*.

The first was 1 on 12 Aug at Lime Creek *Cerro Gordo* (BVL), and the last was 2 on 24–25 Sep at Mines of Spain *Dubuque* (eBird).

Blue-winged Warbler: The last 2 were on 22 Sep at L Macbride *Johnson*, and 23 Sep at the Sayles yard in *Scott* (LGR, eBird).

Black-and-white Warbler: The first was 2 on 12 Aug at Lime Creek *Cerro Gordo* (BVL). As many as 12 were counted at Pilot Knob SP *Hancock* 26 Aug (eBird). The last was 1 on 8 Oct in *Dickinson* (eBird).

Prothonotary Warbler: The most western report was 1 in *Dallas* on 5 Aug (eBird). All 10 other reports were from *Clayton*, *Clinton*, *Dubuque*, *Jackson*, *Linn,* and *Scott* in the far east. The last was 3 on 3 Sep at Squaw Creek P *Linn* (eBird).

Tennessee Warbler: First reported 20–23 Aug in *Muscatine*, *Cerro Gordo*, *Pocahontas*, *Sioux,* and *Marshall* (BVL, MP, eBird), noteworthy for such a scattered initial presence. The high count was 11 on 7 Sep at Wildcat Den SP *Muscatine* (eBird). Late reports trickled into the 2nd week of October ending on the 9th, except for an isolated eBird report of 1 on 21 Oct in *Scott*.

Orange-crowned Warbler: First found as singles in *Polk*, then *Cerro Gordo* and *Buchanan* 8–12 Sep (RLC, BVL, eBird). By late September, it was appearing in small groups over most of the state. The most was 13 on 5 Oct at Littlefield P *Audubon* (DAk). The last two were 1 on 1 Nov at Grammer Grove *Marshall* (MP), and 1 on 2 Nov at Cedar L *Linn* (eBird).

Nashville Warbler: The first were found 23 Aug at two locations – 2 at Parker's Woods *Cerro Gordo* (RG, BVL), and 1 at Mini-Wakan SP *Dickinson* (BSc). During 9 Sep–11 Oct, there were 8 reports of 10 or more at a time from *Black Hawk*, *Boone*, *Johnson*, *Polk* and *Story* (RLC, DAk, eBird). The last was 1 on 22 Oct in rural *Tama* (eBird).

Mourning Warbler: The first was 1 found at Parker's Woods *Cerro Gordo* on 21 Aug (BVL) and was followed immediately by daily but isolated sightings. There were 19 total reports, all single birds and with the last found on 23 Sep at Squaw Creek P *Linn* (BSc).

Kentucky Warbler: The last was 1 on 11 Sep at Squaw Creek P *Linn* (JF).

Common Yellowthroat: The last was 1 on 17 Oct at Broken Kettle Grasslands *Plymouth* (DAk).

Hooded Warbler: The only report was a juvenile female in *Black Hawk* on 27 Aug (TGS).

American Redstart: Commonly reported with 11 mentions of 10 or more individuals at a time during 29 Aug–24 Sep. Then reports quickly trailed off with the last a single individual in *Cerro Gordo* on 3 Oct (eBird).

American Redstart, Boone, *9 October 2017. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.*

Cape May Warbler: The first was 1 on 21 Aug in *Linn* (eBird). Seen regularly at Mines of Spain *Dubuque* 31 Aug–18 Sep (eBird). Otherwise, there were 6 reports from the east during the same time window, and 1 odd late report from *Dickinson* on 8 Oct (eBird).

Cerulean Warbler: Reported during August from *Allamakee* and *Dubuque* where it nests, then from Spring P *Mitchell* on 1 Sep (DAk) which was the last.

Northern Parula: Reported only in eastern and central Iowa in very small numbers with the last 1 on 4 Oct at Martin L *Black Hawk* during a group field trip (FLM, TSS).

Magnolia Warbler: The first was 1 on 19 Aug at Squaw Creek P *Linn* (BSc). Reported from all parts of the state with the last 1 on 7 Oct at Jester P *Polk* (eBird).

Bay-breasted Warbler: Reported from 12 counties in eastern and central Iowa plus sightings of single birds in *Clay* and *Sioux*. The first was 1 on 19 Aug in *Clay* (RG), and the last was 1 on 4 Oct in *Black Hawk* (eBird).

Blackburnian Warbler: The first was 1 on 16 Aug at Parker's Woods *Cerro Gordo* (BVL). The last two were found 25 Sep in Kent P *Johnson* and in the city of Grinnell (eBird).

Yellow Warbler: Departed early, as usual. The last was 1 on 17 Sep along the Trestle Trail *Polk* (KVS).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: One of the most widespread migrant warblers reported. The last few were photographed 2–4 Oct in the Durbins' *Marion* yard *Linn*.

Blackpoll Warbler: Three reports had good details and/or photographs – 1 on 23 Aug at Mini-Wakan SP *Dickinson*, 1 on 30 Aug at Water Works P *Polk*, and 2 on 1 Sep at Spring P *Mitchell* (LGR, AB, DAk).

Black-throated Blue Warbler: All: 1 on 2 Sep at Ledges SP *Boone* (eBird), 1 on 8 Sep and another on 17 Sep at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (MHB, BCC), the only female on 9 Sep at Martin L *Black Hawk* (TGS), 1 on 9 Sep at Grammer Grove *Marshall* (Ann Gregory *fide* MP), 1 on 10 Sep at Hitchcock NC *Pottawattamie* (eBird), 1 on 11 Sep at Squaw Creek P *Linn* (JF), and the last on 1 Oct at Wickiup Hill Learning Center *Linn* (BSc).

Palm Warbler: The first two were found 8 Sep 180 miles apart, one in a Mason City yard *Cerro Gordo* and the other at Port Louisa NWR *Louisa* (BVL, eBird). Widely reported with high counts all on 4–5 Oct of 14 at Sycamore Bottoms *Johnson*, 19 at Green Island *Jackson* and 40 at Cedar L *Linn* (eBird). The last was 4 on 22 Oct at Schaefer NA *Black Hawk* (eBird).

Pine Warbler: All: Two on 26 Aug at Four Mounds *Dubuque* (eBird), 3 on 4 Sep at Mines of Spain *Dubuque* (eBird), 1 on 12 Sep at New Albin *Allamakee* (eBird), and the last on 24 Sep at two locations, Jester Park *Polk* and Hartman Reserve *Black Hawk* (MHB, eBird).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: The first was 1 on 5 Sep at Jefferson County P *Jefferson* followed by another on 8 Sep at Lost Island L SP *Palo Alto* (eBird). The most was 125 on 8 Oct at Coralville L *Johnson* (LGR).

Yellow-throated Warbler: There were about a dozen reports all from central and east-central Iowa. The very last was 1 on 17 Sep at L Macbride *Johnson* (CRE).

Black-throated Green Warbler:

The first was identified 26 Aug in the Durbins' Marion yard *Linn*. Thereafter, reported almost daily from across the state until the last on 4 Oct . . . in the Durbins' Marion yard.

Canada Warbler: The first two were found 12 Aug 100 miles apart – one at Lime Creek *Cerro Gordo* and the other at Jester Park *Polk* (BVL, AB). About 60% of all sightings were in the last week of August. The last individual was found 23 Sep at Squaw Creek P *Linn* (BSc).

Wilson's Warbler: The first was 1 in the Jungers' *Sioux* backyard on 18 Aug. It was followed by daily reports from most of the state until the last 1 on 29 Sep along the Trestle Trail *Polk* (KVS).

Summer Tanager: From 1–4 were reported from *Decatur*, *Des Moines*, *Marion*, *Marshall*, *Muscatine*, *Polk*, *Pottawattamie*, and *Woodbury*. The last was 1 on 28 Sep in *Muscatine* (eBird).

Scarlet Tanager: Reported from 26 counties across the state with the last few 1 on 7 Oct at Rathbun L *Appanoose* and 1 on 8 Oct at Coralville L *Johnson* (RCL, eBird).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: The last was 1 on 4 Oct at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC).

Blue Grosbeak: Adults in the company of fledged young were observed 17–28 Aug in *Cerro Gordo* (BVL). Recently fledged young were also found 17 Sep at Waterworks Prairie P *Johnson* (MHB). Singles were also found in *Black Hawk*, *Carroll*, *Dickinson*, *Kossuth*, *Pocahontas* and *Polk* (DGE, LGR, MCK, AB, JB, eBird) away from the far west. The most was 6 on 29 Aug in *Woodbury* (GLV). The last was 1 on 26 Sep in the Jungers' *Sioux* yard.

Blue Grosbeak, Waterworks Prairie Park, Johnson, 17 September 2017. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.

Indigo Bunting: The last was an eBird report of 3 on 7 Oct at Red Rock Res *Marion*.

Dickcissel: Reports of 20 or more were 24 at Errington M *Polk* on 10 Aug (RLC), and 30 at DeSoto NWR *Harrison* on 26 Aug (eBird). The last was 1 on 11 Oct in *Kossuth* (eBird).

COMMENT

This summary includes data on 282 species reported in Iowa from 1 August 2017 to 30 November 2017. These reports involve ornithological events from 228 locations in 77 of Iowa's 99 counties.

The two primary sources for this information are the IOU database of direct reports from members, a small, but very high-quality set of data, and the fall 2017 eBird database for Iowa, an amazing, exhaustive file consisting of 75,018 separate entries. The IOU database of reports was provided by the 53 contributors listed below plus seven people named in the narrative above. The eBird file is constructed from the Iowa reports of the many people who participate in the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's electronic reporting project, but whose names have been removed from the version of the file shared with me. Thus, credit for data used from this file simply appears as "eBird".

This summary also makes use of information collected and previously published elsewhere. Some of the sources of these data are Iowa DNR August Roadside Surveys, Iowa DNR Wildlife Diversity News, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, IA-Bird listserv, Illinois Natural History Survey, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, USFWS waterfowl counts at DeSoto NWR, Hawk Migration Association of North America (HMANA), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Without these excellent, independent sources, the picture of the Iowa fall ornithological season would not be as clear.

CONTRIBUTORS

Danny Akers	DA	Spirit Lake	Joe D. Jungers	JJ	Hospers
Gianna Anania	GA	Cumming	Patrick Keenan	PK	Mason City
John Bissell	JB	Grimes	Matthew Kenne	MCK	Algona
Carol Blair	CB	Bronson	Betty Lucas	BVL	Mason City
Elizabeth Blessington	EB	Breda	Tucker Lutter	TL	Bronson
Aaron Brees	AB	Polk City	Kelly McKay	KMc	Hampton IL
Mark Brown	MHB	North Liberty	Francis Moore	FLM	Waterloo
Brandon Caswell	BCC	Cedar Rapids	Raymond Morris	RM	Keosauqua
Raymond Cummins	RLC	Ankeny	Jacob Newton	JN	Ottosen
Stephen J. Dinsmore	SJD	Ames	Diane Porter	DCP	Fairfield
David Eastman	DGE	Cedar Falls	Mark Proescholdt	MP	Liscomb
Chris Edwards	CRE	Solon	Larry Reis	LR	Calmar
Bery Engebretsen	BE	Urbandale	Paul Roisen	POR	Sioux City
Bruce Ehresman	BEh	Ames	Linda Rudolph	LGR	Coralville
Carolyn Fischer	CJF	Mason City	John Rutenbeck	JWR	Longmont CO
James Forde	JF	Cedar Rapids	William Scheible	BSc	Cedar Rapids
James Fuller	JLF	Iowa City	Tom Schilke	TSS	Waterloo
Chuck Fuller	CF	Burlington	Lee Schoenewe	LAS	Spencer
Jacob Gilliam	JG	Norwalk	David Shealer	DAS	Dubuque
Rita Goranson	RG	Mason City	Jim Sinclair	JS	Indianola
Adam Hanisch	AH	Hornick	Paul Skrade	PDBS	Decorah
Tyler Harms	TMH	Ames	Tommy Stone	TGS	Waterloo
Douglas Harr	DCH	Ogden	Dennis Thompson	DTh	Johnston
Paul Hertzel	PH	Mason City	Bethany Thornton	BT	Easton, MO
Ann Johnson	AMJ	Norwalk	Karen Viste-Sparkman	KVS	Des Moines
Thomas Johnson	TNJ	Centerville	Gerald Von Ehwegen	GLV	Sioux City

LITERATURE CITED
Moore, F. L. 2016. Field Reports–Winter 2015–2016. *Iowa Bird Life* 86:45–65.
Dinsmore, J. J. 2017. Field Reports–Summer 2017. *Iowa Bird Life* 87:144–165.
Halmi, N. S. 1977. Field Reports, Spring 1977. *Iowa Bird Life* 47:56–63.

1432 E. State Street, Mason City, IA 50401 (phertzel@rconnect.com)

Fifty Years Ago in *Iowa Bird Life*

James J. Dinsmore

Half of the March 1968 issue of *Iowa Bird Life* consists of the report on the 1967 Christmas Bird Count. A total of 28 counts were held and 107 bird species were found, both totals down slightly from the previous year. For the thirteenth consecutive year, Davenport had the greatest species total with 77 species. The best find was a Black-legged Kittiwake at Davenport, Iowa's second record and a first for the CBC. Other good finds were Eared Grebe (second CBC record) and Northern Shoveler and Yellow-headed Blackbird, both third records for the CBC. Totals for some species now common on CBCs were Canada Goose–51, Wild Turkey–27, and Bald Eagle–185. Several counts had good results by using tape recordings to elicit calls from owls.

Dean Roosa summarized bird banding in Iowa in 1967. A total of 25,821 birds of 174 species were banded by 15 banders. The Iowa Conservation Commission with 9,113 birds banded and Peter Petersen with 5,595 were the most active banders. More than 1,000 individuals of five species, Blue-winged Teal, Mallard, Mourning Dove, American Tree Sparrow, and Dark-eyed Junco, were banded with 4,372 Blue-winged Teal the most. Only one each of 17 species, including Solitary Sandpiper, Merlin, Horned Lark, Sedge Wren, and Clay-colored Sparrow, were banded.

Based on the field reports, it was a fairly slow winter season with no Red-breasted Nuthatches, Pine Siskins, or crossbills and only a single Evening Grosbeak reported. Hawks in general and Short-eared Owls and Horned Larks were thought to be scarce but there were three reports of Snowy Owls. The Black-legged Kittiwake was the find of the season.

A short note provided details on Iowa's second record of Black-legged Kittiwake, seen at Davenport in December. Another note described a White-throated Sparrow banded in October 1960 at Estherville by long-time Iowa birder and bander Myrle Jones and recaptured in April 1967 at Dover, Arkansas by Jones' widow Margaret Jones. A great story.

646 Mallory Hill Drive, The Villages, FL 32162 (oldcoot@iastate.edu)

2017 Hitchcock Nature Center Hawk Watch Report

Bethany Thornton

Overview:

The Hitchcock Hawk Watch faced another below average season in 2017. A total of 8127 raptors were detected, coming in below the 2002–2016 average (median) of 10,140. September saw only 64% of the previous years' average with 1957 raptors. November and December numbers dropped significantly, less than half of the previous years' average recorded detections, with 382 and 113 detections. October was the only month with normal to slightly above average numbers, coming in at 5675 raptors. Despite the exceptional peak during the first two weeks of October, the season still fell short of expectations, with 11.2 raptors per hour versus the 2002–2016 average of 13.5 raptors per hour. These data seems to fit in with the slow but steady decrease in fall raptor migration through this site over the last 16 seasons.

Table 1. Raptor Counts/Hours

Black Vulture	0	Golden Eagle	12
Turkey Vulture	3986	American Kestrel	39
Osprey	98	Merlin	63
Bald Eagle	401	Peregrine Falcon	78
Northern Harrier	143	Prairie Falcon	3
Sharp-shinned Hawk	658	Gyrfalcon	0
Cooper's Hawk	228	Mississippi Kite	4
Northern Goshawk	9	Unknown Accipiter	14
Red-shouldered Hawk	6	Unknown Buteo	41
Broad-winged Hawk	752	Unknown Falcon	7
Red-tailed Hawk	1482	Unknown Eagle	1
Rough-legged Hawk	12	Unknown Raptor	27
Swainson's Hawk	61	TOTAL RAPTORS	8127
Ferruginous Hawk	2	TOTAL HOURS	726

Species Analysis:

The usual nineteen species were detected from the tower this season, with no notable rarities. Recorded observations showed above average numbers and continually climbing trends for Turkey Vulture, Broad-winged Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, and Merlin. Conversely, detections for Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Swainson's Hawk, and American Kestrel were significantly lower than average, with several falling below half of previous years' average detections. Though not necessarily indicative of a severe decline for each of these species, further investigation of trends over the past 16 seasons do show a noticeable and continual decline for Northern Harrier, Red-tailed Hawk, Swainson's Hawk, and American Kestrel in particular. The remaining species – including Osprey, Cooper's Hawk, Northern Goshawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Ferruginous Hawk, Golden Eagle, Prairie Falcon, and Mississippi Kite – were detected in numbers close to that of the previous years' averages and show no significant or concerning trends. No Black Vultures, Gyrfalcons, or Swallow-tailed Kites were detected this season.

1499 SE 85th Rd, Easton, Mo 64443 (bethanydthornton@gmail.com)

2017 Hitchcock Nature Center Fall Banding Summary

Jerry Toll

Table 1. Raptor Counts/Hours

Red-tailed Hawk	113
Sharp-shinned Hawk	29
Cooper's Hawk	9
Broad-winged Hawk	2
Red-shouldered Hawk	1
American Kestrel	1
Merlin	3
Peregrine Falcon	1
TOTAL CAPTURES	159
TOTAL HOURS	308
RAPTORS/HOUR	0.5

Table 2. Owl Counts/Hours

Northern Saw-whet Owl	101
TOTAL CAPTURES	101
TOTAL HOURS	90
OWLS/HOUR	1.1

2741 Wyoming Street, Omaha, NE 68112
(geritol48@cox.net)

IOU
Profit & Loss
January through December 2017

Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
5200 Meeting Income		3,419.80
5250 Commitee Events		110.00
5300 Merchandise Sales		544.56
5350 Sales - Online		25.22
5900 Interest Income		171.79
Donations		
5100 Donations - Unspecified	1,367.44	
5120 Donations - Memorials	25.00	
Total Donations		1,392.44
Dues		
4012 Fledgling Dues	50.00	
4020 Goldfinch Dues	1,032.80	
4035 Bluebird Dues	3,700.00	
4050 Baltimore Oriole Dues	2,950.00	
4075 Great Egret Dues	810.00	
4100 Osprey Dues	1,515.00	
4250 Bald Eagle Dues	250.00	
4800 Institutions Dues	30.00	
Total Dues		10,337.80
Total Income		16,001.61
Expense		
6200 Meeting Expenses		4,256.61
6600 Insurance-Liability		753.00
6900 Bank & Pay Pal Exp.		296.51
Committees		
6708 Committees - Conserv/Proj	9,071.82	
Total Committees		9,071.82
Publications		
6110 Publications - IA Bird Lif	4,957.33	
6120 Publications -Internet Svc	140.29	
Publications - Other	104.90	
Total Publications		5,202.52
Sales Expense		
6300 Merchandise Purchase	179.67	
Total Sales Expense		179.67
Total Expense		19,760.13
Net Ordinary Income		-3,758.52
Net Income		-3,758.52

IOU
Balance Sheet
As of December 31, 2017

ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Checking/Savings		
1150 Checking - 1st Citizens		31,595.46
1450 Checking - Comm 1st CU		52,148.55
1550 Savings - Comm 1st CU		5.00
Total Checking/Savings		83,749.01
Total Current Assets		83,749.01
TOTAL ASSETS		83,749.01
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Equity		
3000 General Operating Fund GOF		45,603.97
Fund Balances		
3200 Life Membership Fund	13,263.89	
3220 Projects	1,296.55	
3300 Memorial Fund	11,882.79	
3400 Publication Enhancement	8,890.33	
3500 BBA Fund	6,570.00	
Total Fund Balances		41,903.56
Net Income		-3,758.52
Total Equity		83,749.01
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY		83,749.01

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES (renewable yearly): Fledgling (students) $20 (electronic only), Institutional (domestic) $30, Institutional (foreign) $45, Goldfinch $25 (electronic only), Bluebird $35, Oriole $50, Egret $75, Osprey $100, Bald Eagle $250, and Peregrine Falcon $500+. Membership dues entitle members to receive *Iowa Bird Life* quarterly and to vote and hold office in the Union. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Join, give a gift, or manage your membership on-line at <www.iowabirds.org>. Paper forms for new members and renewals may be mailed to the treasurer. Back issues of *Iowa Bird Life* are available from Membership Coordinator Cecille Thompson 7503 Wildflower Ct, Johnson, IA 50131 (cecillethompson@gmail.com).

INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS: Original manuscripts, notes, letters (indicate if for publication), editorials, and other material relating to birds in Iowa should be sent by e-mail attachment in Microsoft Word to editor at vistesparrow@gmail.com. Research manuscripts should include abstract, introduction, study area, methods, results, discussion, and literature cited sections and will be sent for peer review. Accepted manuscripts will be published promptly depending on space available.

Photos and graphics: Submit only original, unsized, and unenhanced photos in your camera's JPEG (*.jpg) format. Photos must be 300 dpi at the size they will be printed (6-1/2" wide by 6-1/2" high for the cover and various smaller sizes inside), so setting your camera to its highest possible resolution is recommended. The editor will do any resizing and enhancing required because any previous adjustments to the photos may make them unusable. Submit photos and graphics as e-mail attachments. Photos and captions should be emailed to IBLPhotos@iowabirds.org.

Deadlines for submission are January 1 for winter issue (Vol. xx[1]), April 1 for spring issue [2], July 1 for summer issue [3],October 1 for fall issue [4]. Send seasonal field reports to field reports editors by deadlines listed on inside front cover.

I.O.U. WEB SITE: <www.iowabirds.org>, Ann Johnson, Webmaster

IOWA RBA: John Bissell (john.annabissell@gmail.com)

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT: Deadline for receipt of reports is 15 January. For forms and instructions, contact Christopher J. Caster, 1813 Liberty Lane, Coralville, IA 52241 (cjcaster@q.com).

BIRD SIGHTINGS: Subscribe at <www.iowabirds.org>

ADDRESS CHANGES: Update your on-line profile at <www.iowabirds.org> or send address and e-mail changes to Membership Coordinator Cecille Thompson, 7503 Wildflower Ct., Johnston, IA 50131 (cecillethompson@gmail.com).

UPCOMING MEETINGS OF THE I.O.U.:

FRONT COVER PHOTO: Bar-tailed Godwit, Red Rock Reservoir, *Marion,* 5 August 2017. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.

BACK COVER PHOTO: Black-throated Green Warbler, *Boone,* 18 September 2017. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.

LAYOUT: Paul Hertzel, Mason City, IA
PRINTER: Larson Printing, Mason City, IA

CONTENTS

First record of a Bar-tailed Godwit for Iowa
by *Stephen J. Dinsmore* 1

Yellow-billed Loon at Clear Lake
by *Betty V. Lucas, and Carolyn J. Fischer* 3

Gyrfalcon in Howard County
by *Ryan Shackleton* 5

Field Reports – Fall 2017
by *Paul Hertzel* 6

Fifty Years Ago in *Iowa Bird Life*
by *James J. Dinsmore* 40

2017 Hitchcock Nature Center Hawk Watch Report
by *Bethany Thornton* 41

2017 Hitchcock Nature Center Fall Banding Summary
by *Jerry Toll* 42

2017 IOU Financial Statements 44

IOWA BIRD LIFE

IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

Spring 2018 . Volume 88 . Number 2

IOWA BIRD LIFE

The Iowa Ornithologists' Union, founded in 1923, encourages interest in the identification, study, and protection of birds in Iowa and seeks to unite those who have these interests in common. Iowa Bird Life is a quarterly publication of the Union.

OFFICERS OF THE IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION (Dates indicate end of current term):
President: *Francis L. Moore* (2019), 336 Fairfield St, Waterloo, IA 50703-1628 (flmoore@forbin.net)
Vice President: *Pip Fisher* (2019), 14172 NW 130th Ave, Madrid, IA 50156 (pip@pipfish.com)
Secretary: *Sharon Bauer* (2020), 519 N 4th Ave, Winterset, IA 50273 (sbauer@mchsi.com)
Treasurer: *Mary Beth Hunt* (2020), 1201 High Avenue West, Oskaloosa, IA 52577 (mbh@mahaska.org)

DIRECTORS: *Diane Detlinger* (2019), *Kevin Murphy* (2019), *Curt Nelson* (2020), *Dennis Thompson* (2020), *Eric Ollie* (2020).

JOURNAL STAFF:
Editor: *Karen Viste-Sparkman*, 3925 Hillcrest Drive, Des Moines, IA 50310 (vistesparrow@gmail.com)
Christmas Bird Count Editor: *Christopher J. Caster,* 1813 Liberty Lane, Coralville, IA 52241 (cjcaster@q.com)
Field Reports Editors (Enter seasonal data at <www.iowabirds.org>):
Winter (Dec, Jan, Feb; deadline 3 March): *Francis L. Moore*, 336 Fairfield Street, Waterloo, IA 50703 (flmoore@forbin.net)
Spring (Mar, Apr, May; deadline 3 June): *Connor Langan,* 4400 Hoff Road, Waterloo, IA 50701 (clangan16@gmail.com)
Summer (Jun, Jul; deadline 3 August): *Jim Dinsmore*, 646 Mallory Hill Drive, The Villages, FL 32162 (oldcoot@iastate.edu)
Fall (Aug, Sept, Oct, Nov; deadline 3 December): *Brandon Caswell*, 680 S 22nd St, Marion, IA 52302 (brandon.caswell83@gmail.com)

STANDING COMMITTEES AND CHAIRPERSONS:
Library/Historical: *Hank Zaletel* (2018), 1928 6th Street, Nevada, IA 50201 (madowl@midiowa.net); *Candace Havely* (2020)
Membership: *Cecille Thompson* Membership Coordinator (N/A); *Karen Disbrow* (2019); *Douglas Harr* (2019); *Eric Ollie* (2020); *Matt Stephenson* (2018)
Projects: *Billy Reiter-Marolf* (2019), 1674 Sunrise Ct, New Albin, IA 52160 (wreiterm@gmail.com); *Joe Jungers* (2020); *Coady Lundy* (2021); *Richard Sayles* (2022)
Publications: *Ann M. Johnson*, 5362 120th Avenue, Norwalk, IA 50211 (aj@hologrambirds.com); *John Bissell*; *Karen Viste-Sparkman; Kay Niyo* (2023)
Records: *Paul Hertzel* (Secretary, appointed by committee), 1432 E State St., Mason City, IA 50401 (phertzel@rconnect.com); *Ann Johnson* (2018); *William Scheible* (2019); *Karen Viste-Sparkman* (2020); *Paul Skrade* (2021); *Mark Brown* (2022); *Doug Harr* (2023)

Copyright 2018 Iowa Ornithologists' Union (ISSN 0021-0455), All rights reserved.

Iowa Christmas Bird Count

Chris Caster

Reports were submitted for 53 counts this season. This ties the record from the 2013–2014 season. New to the count was Cass County. Union County returned. Worth County was cancelled due to weather.

The count period began with unseasonably warm weather. Usual winter temperatures arrived on the 22nd and continued to decline. Counts held after the 30th mostly reported single digits to below zero. Snow was generally a factor in the counties along the northern border and northeast corner. Elsewhere, Neal Smith NWR was the exception, reporting 6 inches 5 Jan.

The species count of 148 was a new record. The total birds (772,835) were the second-highest. Davenport found 100 species, tying Saylorville's record count two years ago. This year Saylorville reported a lofty 95 species. Other high counts were: Clinton (91), Keokuk (88), Burlington (86), Andalusia (85), Green Island and Ames (80). NW Clayton County (64) led the northern counts. Omaha (79) led the Missouri River counts. Rathbun and Lamoni (75) led the southern counts. The average count this year had 15 field observers, 6.5 field parties, and 62 species.

REGULAR SPECIES

An astounding 17 regular species were found in record numbers this count. Waterfowl and gull numbers were high, as were owls and raptors. Frugivores, sparrows, blackbirds, and finches were all in good numbers. Frequently reported species are recorded in Table 2. Species found on three or fewer counts are recorded in Table 3.

Canada Geese (200,994) and Cackling Geese (3301) were both abundant. Greater White-fronted Geese (1454) were scattered across 19 counts with large numbers at Clinton and Union County. Snow Geese (518) were equally widespread. Ross's Geese (14) were on eight counts. Trumpeter Swans (1737) and Tundra Swans (1680) set new records. Tundra Swans were even reported in large numbers away from the Mississippi. Cedar Falls-Waterloo had 52 and SE Webster County had 20. Two Mute Swans were reported at Ames.

Mallards (115,615) were also abundant. American Black Ducks (74) had their best count in over a decade. Northern Pintails (942) were in record numbers. Gadwalls (666) were relatively abundant. The other dabblers were also in good numbers. Large numbers of Canvasbacks (30,017) were on the Mississippi with the majority at Keokuk and Clinton. Most of the other divers, including Common Goldeneyes (9876), were found in average numbers. Common Mergansers (16,594), Red-breasted Mergansers (33), and Hooded Mergansers (212) were all twice their average. Between Spirit Lake and

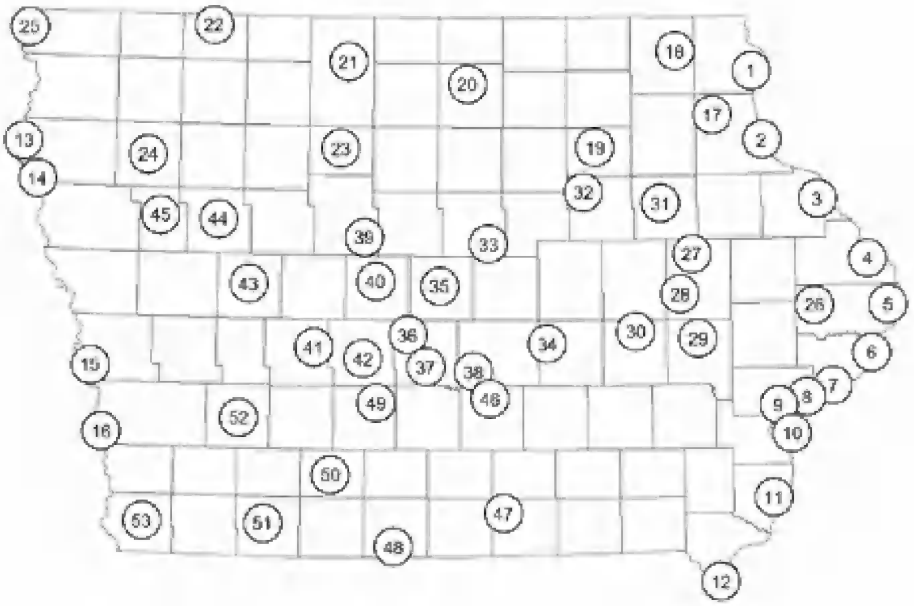


Figure 1. Christmas bird counts in Iowa, 2017-2018 (see Tables 1 and 2)

Keokuk, all three scoters and Long-tailed Ducks were reported.

Pied-billed Grebes (10) were on just four counts. Double-crested Cormorants (33) were on seven. American White Pelicans (991) were found in high numbers and on 13 counts. Great Blue Herons (151), Sandhill Cranes (23), American Coots (739), Killdeer (25), Wilson's Snipes (21), and Belted Kingfishers (184) all had good counts. Ring-billed Gulls (48,695) and Herring Gulls (2952) were abundant. A number of Iceland Gulls (8) were reported and all were apparently of the *thayeri* subspecies. Nine Lesser Black-backed Gulls were a new record. Two Glaucous Gulls were at Davenport and another was at Saylorville.

Northern Bobwhites (140) had their best year in a decade. Shenandoah reported 31. Wild Turkeys (2405) and Ring-necked Pheasants (961) were in average numbers. Only five Gray Partridge were found, all at Ames. Eurasian Collared-Doves (1061) set a new record. Rock Pigeons (11,533) and Mourning Doves (3595) fell below their averages.

Bald Eagles (4679) were in high numbers. Northern Harriers (174) achieved a record high for the second straight year. Cooper's Hawks (144) also set a new record. Sharp-shinned Hawks (70) were average. Red-shouldered Hawks (20) were on 14 counts. Rough-legged Hawks (293) again approached record numbers. Golden Eagles (6) were on just three counts. American Kestrels (714) had their best count in a decade. Merlins (34) and Peregrine Falcons

(9) were both found in record numbers.

Eastern Screech-Owls (141) and Great Horned Owls (261) had good counts. Barred Owls (264) were in record numbers. Long-eared Owls (23) were relatively scarce, but Short-eared Owls (36) and Northern Saw-whet Owls (26) both set new records.

Red-headed Woodpeckers (458) had one of their best years. Red-bellied Woodpeckers (2858) had a record year. Downy Woodpeckers (2771), Hairy Woodpeckers (792), Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers (45), and Northern Flickers (782) all had good counts. Pileated Woodpeckers (203) bested their previous record by nearly 40.

Northern Shrikes (45) were in below average numbers. Only two Loggerhead Shrikes were reported, both at Union County. Blue Jays (5718) were plentiful. While American Crows (40,457) were also plentiful, they actually had their lowest count in 30 years.

Black-capped Chickadees (6041) were only below-average, but Tufted Titmice (595) had their worst count in over 30 years. White-breasted Nuthatches (3380) and Brown Creepers (424) both had good counts. Red-breasted Nuthatches (267) had their best count in 10. Carolina Wrens (292) had a record count. Winter Wrens (54) were also in high numbers. Golden-crowned Kinglets (111) had very good count. Ruby-crowned Kinglets (6) were on three counts with four at Lost Nation.

Eastern Bluebirds (1356) and American Robins (3939) were in good numbers. Hermit Thrushes (83) had another big count after last year's record. Northern Mockingbirds (10) had their best count in nearly 10 thanks to eight at Lamoni. Green Island and Amana also found mockingbirds. A Gray Catbird was at Cedar Rapids and a count week Brown Thrasher was at Ames. Cedar Waxwings (4923) had a very good count. Yellow-rumped Warblers (290) were in tremendous numbers. European Starlings (73,091) were plentiful and Davenport suffered the high count.

Spotted Towhees were at Omaha and Shenandoah. The only Eastern Towhee was at Neal Smith NWR. American Tree (16,417), Fox (49), and Song sparrows (775) were all in above average numbers. Eight Savannah Sparrows were reported, four from Lamoni. Swamp Sparrows (138) were average. White-throated Sparrows (815) were again plentiful following last year's record. White-crowned Sparrows (254) were again twice their average. Harris's Sparrows (73) had their lowest count in nearly 10. Five Lincoln's and six Field sparrows were reported. Dark-eyed Juncos (22,296) were somewhat below-average.

Horned Larks (4837) were found in typical numbers. Lapland Longspurs (6018) were twice their average while Snow Buntings (131) were scarce. Red-winged Blackbirds (37,295) were also at twice their average. Meadowlarks (691) were reported in good numbers. Rusty Blackbirds (392) were nearly at a 30-year high. A lone Brewer's Blackbird was at Boone County. Common Grackles (18,880) had their highest year ever. After counting 27,000 starlings,

it is hard to imagine the enthusiasm the Davenport count must have had to add 18,000 grackles. Brown-headed Cowbirds (4307) also set a new record. Over 3000 were at Davenport.

Northern Cardinals (6352) and Purple Finches (657) were about average. House Finches (3354) were above average. Common Redpolls (262) were widespread. Saylorville had 115 and Westfield 45. Pine Siskins (516) rebounded to near-average numbers. American Goldfinch (3624) numbers have declined each year over the last six, now to an 18-year low. House Sparrows (20,705) numbers were average. Eurasian Tree Sparrows (1794) were reported in average numbers. They were reported north to SE Clayton County and now expanding westward to Eldora-Union, Neal Smith NWR, and Dallas County.

NOTABLE MISSES

This was the sixth straight miss for Ruffed Grouse, which is now only worth mentioning because it had been found previously for over 25 straight years. Other notable misses included: Northern Goshawk, Black-billed Magpie (8 of last 10), Yellow-headed Blackbird, White-winged Crossbill (7 of last 10), and Turkey Vulture (6 of last 10). Turkey Vultures had been periodically on the count for decades, but only now have they become regular enough to be considered a miss.

UNCOMMON SPECIES

New to the Iowa CBC this year was a Dickcissel found by Charles and James Fuller visiting a feeder on the Burlington count. A female Cinnamon Teal was documented with a photograph on the Bremer County count. Four Blue-winged Teals were on the Shenandoah count. Like Turkey Vultures, they have recently been regular enough to become a notable miss if not found next year. A Virginia Rail was discovered by Stephen J. Dinsmore on the Keokuk count this year. Surprisingly, Virginia Rails show up about every 10 years on the CBC. Steve also photographed an alternate plumage Franklin's Gull on the Saylorville count. It had been nearly 20 years since one had been on the CBC. Two Great Black-backed Gulls were found on the Davenport count. Also on the Davenport count was a Great Egret. This is just the third time that this bird has been on the CBC, but one of those was just last year in Burlington.

It was another irruption year for Snowy Owls and 10 were found on eight counts this year. Two were at both Iowa City and Red Rock. Three other counts had count week birds. This year's total was second only to the 11 birds found during the 2011–2012 count.

Perhaps more impressive than the owl irruption was that it coincided with seven Eastern Phoebes found on six counts. Western Mercer County had two. Phoebes had only been on five counts in the previous 30 years. Additionally, Palm Warblers were documented by Kelly McKay from both the Muscatine and Lost Nation counts. The Lost Nation bird was believed to be of the yellow-

ish eastern *hyochrysea* subspecies, whereas the Muscatine bird was certainly of the western *palmarum* subspecies. Palm Warblers have only been reported once before on the CBC. An Orange-crowned Warbler was also documented by Kelly McKay on the Clinton count

There were many other birds from somewhat more regularly found species. A Common Loon was at Jamaica and a loon species was at Red Rock. Prairie Falcons were at DeSoto NWR and Neal Smith NWR. Marsh Wrens were at Keokuk, Omaha, and Shenandoah. Townsend's Solitaires were at SE Clayton County, Green Island, and Carroll County. A Vesper Sparrow was at Ida County. A LeConte's Sparrow was at DeSoto NWR. Omaha reported 49 Great-tailed Grackles and Saylorville added one. Red Crossbills were reported from four counts. SE Clayton County had 15 and Davenport had seven.

1813 Liberty Lane, Coralville, IA 52241 (cjcaster@q.com)

Red-breasted Nuthatch and Downy Woodpecker, Iowa City, Johnson, *9 Feb 2018. Photograph by Jim Scheib, Iowa City, IA.*

Table 1. Site Data for 2017–2018 Christmas Bird Counts

Location	Date	Total Species	Total Birds	Obs	Field Pts	Hr	Miles Car
MISSISSIPPI RIVER							
1. Yellow River Forest	20-Dec	56	3,389	10	5	37.1	310.75
2. SE Clayton County	4-Jan	72	7,276	5	3	27.75	296
3. Dubuque	16-Dec	63	5,723	13	7	48	217.5
4. Green Island	15-Dec	80	9,277	24	5	39	333.5
5. Clinton	19-Dec	91	35,688	14	6	51.25	327
6. Princeton	21-Dec	77	10,314	11	5	43.75	377
7. Davenport	17-Dec	100	105,498	22	9	69.25	455
8. Andalusia	24-Dec	85	8,347	9	4	29.25	331
9. Muscatine	23-Dec	76	6,353	11	5	40.25	317
10. W Mercer County	14-Dec	71	15,168	17	5	41	302
11. Burlington	16-Dec	86	10,665	17	7	57	295
12. Keokuk	18-Dec	88	69,955	8	4	33.5	366
MISSOURI RIVER							
13. Westfield	21-Dec	51	7,211	19	8	35	434
14. Sioux City	16-Dec	63	14,064	19	10	71	740
15. DeSoto NWR	19-Dec	67	37,497	22	9	52.5	333
16. Omaha	18-Dec	79	13,348	45	14	72	349.2
NORTHERN THIRD							
17. NW Clayton County	3-Jan	64	7189	4	3	29.5	365
18. Decorah	22-Dec	52	7,053	31	12	64.2	332
19. Bremer County	16-Dec	55	9,574	17	6	39	415
20. Mason City	16-Dec	48	19,333	12	7	56.5	432
21. Union Slough NWR	4-Jan	36	4,294	15	7	41.8	568.6
22. Spirit Lake	16-Dec	63	47,295	9	4	30.5	342
23. Humboldt County	5-Jan	33	1,802	3	3	26.5	371
24. Cherokee	22-Dec	34	1,980	8	3	10.5	211
25. Canton	4-Jan	41	3,396	9	4	28.5	295
MIDDLE THIRD							
26. Lost Nation	18-Dec	68	6,501	14	5	44.25	449
27. North Linn	27-Dec	55	4,402	8	3	21.75	259
28. Cedar Rapids	16-Dec	67	17,629	18	9	71.25	375.6
29. Iowa City	17-Dec	71	11,460	30	10	58.85	424
30. Amana	28-Dec	47	1,314	12	3	21	45
31. Buchanan County	22-Dec	63	4,082	6	4	32.75	310
32. Cedar Falls-Waterloo	17-Dec	59	13,787	12	6	41	433
33. Eldora-Union	19-Dec	40	1,957	7	4	23	177
34. Grinnell	16-Dec	41	2,487	12	4	24	80
35. Ames	16-Dec	80	18,846	31	15	101	401
36. Saylorville Reservoir	17-Dec	95	28,157	24	12	79.75	465
37. Des Moines	23-Dec	55	36,680	19	13	58	492
38. Neal Smith NWR	5-Jan	45	4,067	19	6	31.6	285.6
39. SE Webster County	16-Dec	44	5,554	10	4	30	225
40. Boone County	30-Dec	62	7,216	27	9	64.57	470.5
41. Jamaica	14-Dec	68	15,853	14	7	40	476
42. Dallas County	16-Dec	49	2,617	26	9	32	340
43. Carroll County	19-Dec	57	5,651	7	4	17.25	216
44. Sac County	30-Dec	32	1,572	4	3	12.25	110
45. Ida County	17-Dec	54	7,752	14	7	60	285
SOUTHERN THIRD							
46. Red Rock Reservoir	16-Dec	70	41,013	11	7	41.75	418.6
47. Rathbun Reservoir	16-Dec	75	18,722	13	5	35.5	400
48. Lamoni	16-Dec	75	10,782	10	4	31	311
49. NE Madison County	21-Dec	49	5,427	12	6	32	270.5
50. Union County	22-Dec	64	11,439	1	1	9.75	126
51. Taylor County	23-Dec	43	2,803	5	2	8	162
52. Cass County	17-Dec	34	4,248	10	3	14.5	121
53. Shenandoah	16-Dec	72	19,128	8	4	29	224
TOTALS		148	772,835				

Miles Ft	Owling Hr	Owling Mi	Feeder Pts	Feeder Hr	Temp L	Temp H	Snow Depth	Wind
7	2.5	20	0	0	24	30	2	NE 4–9
1.5	2.75	18	0	0	-17	9	3	NW 0–5
15	3.5	2	1	1	34	43	1	S 0–10
8.75	3.75	21	0	0	23	33	3	W 7–15
2	5	51	0	0	33	51	0	NW 5–15
13.25*	5	38	0	0	28	37	0	NE 5–10
11.5	11	95	14	12	29	45	0	SSW 5–10
4	5.25	22	0	0	17	22	2	NW 5–15
8	7	47	5	5	18	25	0	NNW 5–15
9.75	7.25	68	0	0	18	28	0	WNW 5–10
49	3	8	1	8	30	54	0	SW 5–15
11	1.5	6	0	0	41	51	0	SW 0–11
16	1	5	1	4	26	30	0	SE 10–25
18	3	6	4	5	21	49	0	N 0–10
18.5	0	0	1	0.75	35	48	0	N 7–12
29.5	3.25	26.8	3	4	24	55	0	S 9–16
4.5	2.25	8	0	0	0	10	4	NW 5–10
12.9	2	4	7	13.25	12	30	2	NW 0–12
14	1	5	1	2	24	48	0	W 0–5
15.3	1	5	1	3.9	25	45	0	NW 0–6
3.8	1	25.3	1	1	-1	6	4	SSW 0–4
11	1	0.25	6	12.5	25	44	0	NW 5–15
4	2	30	0	0	-11	6	1.5	N 0–7
0	0	0	0	0	11	25	0.75	NW 5–9
5	7.5	78	0	0	-3	10	4	SE 5–14
5	0	0	0	0	31	34	0	calm
0.25	1.125	12	0	0	-14	2	1	unk.
10.5	1.75	14	5	10	30	49	0	calm
10.75	3.85	23	11	22.5	31	41	0	E 0–8
2	3	10	2	5	3	7	2	S 5–15
8	1.5	6	0	0	11	30	0	NW 5–10
15	1	2	2	3	29	35	0	W 5–10
9.5	0.5	9	1	8	35	43	0	NW 5–15
2	4	8	1	8	34	51	0	SSW 1–5
36.5	4.5	23	7	18	24	54	0	W 0–6
34	8.5	70	1	1.5	28	37	0	SW 0–10
23	4	31	7	30	16	25	0	NW 5–15
6	0	0	1	na	-5	11	6	NE 6–13
1	2	10	1	4	27	50	0	NNW 5
18.02	2	11	11	67.5	-9	5	4	NW 15–25
8	2	20	0	0	27	34	0	NW 6–20
20.5	0	0	2	4	42	na	0	SW 5
3.5	1.75	21.5	2	3.75	36	46	0	NNW 3–23
1	0	0	3	4.25	-8	-4	1.5	N 12–17
5	1	2	1	2	18	30	0	calm
14.1	2.5	14.7	0	0	30	54	0	S 1–7
5	4	43	2	4.5	36	55	0	SW 5–10
9	1	1.5	1	1	32	52	0	SW 0–9
8.25	0	0	2	2	28	38	0.1	NE 8–25
3	0.75	8	0	0	16	29	0	N 5–11
0	0	0	0	0	23	24	0	N 10
3.05	0	0	0	0	27	41	0	N 0–10
2.5	1	13	4	5	28	54	0	S 0–2

*Includes 8 miles by boat.

Table 2a. Christmas Bird Count Data, 2017–2018

Location	Sn Go	Ro Go	Gr W-f Go	Cack Go	Ca Go	Tr Sw	Tu Sw	Wo Du	No Sh	Ga	Am Wi	Ma	Am Bl Du	No Pi	Gr Wi Te	Ca	Re	Ri Ne Du	Gr Sc	Le Sc	Bu
MISSISSIPPI RIVER																					
1. Yellow River Forest					169			2				410				2				11	1
2. SE Clayton County					4					6		87									
3. Dubuque				7	1171	15						1031	5			27		2		41	
4. Green Island			2	13	2636	153	256	1		12	2	910	13			2		4		45	9
5. Clinton	100		457	9	5959	158	1346	2	46	80	48	16639	17	812	11	3187	3	1		481	10
6. Princeton				2	2019	196						160	1			42			1	120	
7. Davenport		1	52	41	10504	1		3		28		3446	5	2	1	5	3	6	10	113	10
8. Andalusia			76	48	957	6				5		440	2	1		3	4	4		11	1
9. Muscatine				3	971					6		249	1					1		12	
10. W Mercer County				2	1796							6459			5	80					
11. Burlington			1	136	3910	59			6	165	1	389			18	6		90		42	20
12. Keokuk			83	9	1261	80		7	1	121		831	2	103		26643	12	1539	125	651	43
Subtotals	100	1	671	270	31357	668	1602	15	53	423	51	31051	46	918	35	29997	22	1647	136	1527	94
MISSOURI RIVER																					
13. Westfield	181	1	4	40	4170							85		1						2	
14. Sioux City	12			141	8236			1				1136					1				
15. DeSoto NWR	5		3	105	9396	53						22684			154						
16. Omaha	155	2		252	5889			3	4	48		631		10	9			3		11	
Subtotals	353	3	7	538	27691	53	0	4	4	48	0	24536	0	11	163	0	1	3	0	13	0
NORTHERN THIRD																					
17. NW Clayton County					51	17															
18. Decorah	2			15	2564		5					61									
19. Bremer County			42	8	4934	51		1		1	1	2382		2						1	
20. Mason City	3			537	11304	68			1			2545	1			1				3	
21. Union Slough NWR												39									
22. Spirit Lake	6	2		208	34073	2		1		1	2	10242		1			6		6		4
23. Humboldt County					350							75									
24. Cherokee					147	11															
25. Canton																					
Subtotals	11	2	42	768	53423	149	5	2	1	2	3	15344	1	3	0	1	6	0	6	4	4
MIDDLE THIRD																					
26. Lost Nation			4	2	974	71	1					226		2							
27. North Linn					415																
28. Cedar Rapids	8		2	49	7544	6						2569	1	1						1	
29. Iowa City		1	3	10	4082				90	1	1	550	2			7				30	2
30. Amana					4	23															
31. Buchanan County				2	934			1				40			1						
32. Cedar Falls-Waterloo			4	2	3720		52			6		2136	10		1		5			14	1
33. Eldora-Union					855	7						6									
34. Grinnell					900	52				6		400									
35. Ames	1		1	187	6676	93				cw		503		2	3			4		1	
36. Saylorville Reservoir	2		27	288	5432	4			4	9	4	4152	6	1	7	4	1	38		21	
37. Des Moines	1			254	10648	66			10	8		2740	2	2		1	26	13	3	22	
38. Neal Smith NWR																					
39. SE Webster County				6	4000	280	20			3		250									
40. Boone County					1190	46						14									
41. Jamaica	7	1		70	6000	27			1	40	2	2500	1	1		2	2	13		5	
42. Dallas County				7	829													8			
43. Carroll County		3	2	100	2651				20		2	530			1					3	
44. Sac County					437	cw															
45. Ida County	2			120	1685							388									
Subtotals	21	5	43	1097	58976	675	73	1	125	73	9	17004	22	9	13	14	34	76	3	97	3
SOUTHERN THIRD																					
46. Red Rock Reservoir				137	4554	15		4				3899								1	
47. Rathbun Reservoir			155	10	6070					38	2	8210	2		2		1	4		4	4
48. Lamoni	26		cw	37	3793				21	5	1	683			2	1					
49. NE Madison County	2			10	2394	49						6							1		
50. Union County	2		456	183	6164					31	2	2127	3		6	4		12		1	
51. Taylor County					479							450									
52. Cass County	1				3227	111						50									
53. Shenandoah	2	3	80	251	2866	17			8	46	4	12255		1	12			116		2	
Subtotals	33	3	691	628	29547	192	0	4	29	120	9	27680	5	1	22	5	1	132	1	8	4
TOTALS	518	14	1454	3301	200994	1737	1680	26	212	666	72	115615	74	942	233	30017	64	1858	146	1649	105

Co Go	Ho Me	Co Me	Re Br Me	Ru Du	No Bo	Ri Ne Ph	Wi Tu	P-b Gr	D-c Co	Am Wh Pe	Gr Bl He	No Ha	Sh Sh Ha	Co Ha	ac sp	Ba Ea	Re Sh Ha	Re Ta Ha	Ro Le Ha
4		42		2		2	89							1		114	2	27	8
3						7	146						1	4		58		34	9
44		4		12			9			5	4	1	2	4		38	1	29	3
30		49					85				3	7	1	3		205		48	9
942	1	187		4		4	1	2		167	11	1				153		55	8
221	1	57				4	22		1	3	30		2	5		167		33	2
4390	3	74	2	1			73		6	81	44		2	13		313	2	50	1
425		99	2		3	2	41				2	4	3	8		119		41	7
24		60					34		1		1	4	5	3		130	1	67	7
		15	8		9	3				196	20	3		2		136	1	47	1
26	1	41		9	25	12	1		10	293	5	8	3	3		72		42	2
2409	78	577	4	2323	14		3			2	11	1		2		1334	1	29	
8518	84	1205	16	2351	51	34	504	2	18	747	131	29	19	48	0	2839	8	502	57
1	1	75				5	38					3	1	1		25		16	31
30		20	1	6		12	538					5	1	2		10		78	11
373	2	263			7	3	99	1				16	1	1		98		80	2
75	32	125			3		94	5			1	8	1	7		47		116	
479	35	483	1	6	10	20	769	6	0	0	1	32	4	11	0	180	0	290	44
						4	195					2	1	3		78		27	5
						2	97					5	2	1	1	108		30	19
						9	3					1	1	1		33		26	2
	1	1				13	98				1	1	1			35		24	2
						276	5					1				17		13	5
161	5	263	1	4		11	74								1	16		16	11
						95	2							1		10		5	3
						26	2						1			38		36	13
						24							1			14		19	12
161	6	264	1	4	0	460	476	0	0	0	1	10	7	6	2	349	0	196	72
						26	11				2	6	2	3		78		55	2
						26	58						1	6		48	1	31	5
		2				2	34							6		34		63	1
	1	1	1			3	18			2		3	1	8		61	1	64	5
							25					1			1	29		12	7
						5	25					1	1	2		52		20	3
9	5	12	2			6	48						2	7		49	5	12	8
	2					5	1						1			53		10	4
1	1					3	30					1	1			14		17	1
2		17				47	43					7	2	11		58	1	81	3
297		1446	3	1		30	6	2	4	1		6	2	4		132		86	4
95	20	49		3		2	14			82	1		2	6		80	1	55	
					12	37	20					4	2	4		16		52	11
1										1		2	1			10	1	7	3
						59	117					2	3	5		42		51	8
6	4	75				5	16				1	3	4	4		27		27	5
						12						2		2	1	32		25	1
2		33		1								1				11	1	14	3
						16						4		cw		28		11	4
				1	12	107	52					4	2	1		4		14	7
413	33	1635	6	6	24	391	518	2	4	86	4	47	27	69	2	858	11	707	85
238	2	12904	8			4	11			148	1	7	1	1		192		50	3
24	33	71		3		5	67		11	10	7	23	1	1		64		46	4
1	8	5			16	1	34				4	14	1	2		42	1	56	12
						6	8						1			47		24	3
41	5	18	1		8	1	4					4		1		20		21	
		9				5	2					8	2			74		24	13
1						1	12						5	1		11		18	
	6				31	33			cw		2		2	4		3		57	
305	54	13007	9	3	55	56	138	0	11	158	14	56	13	10	0	453	1	296	35
9876	212	16594	33	2370	140	961	2405	10	33	991	151	174	70	144	4	4679	20	1991	293

Table 2b. Christmas Bird Count Data, 2017–2018

Location	Am Co	Sa Cr	Ki	Wi Sn	Ri Bi Gu	He Gu	Ic Gu	Le B-b Gu	Ro Pi	Eu Co Do	Mo Do	Ea Sc Ow	Gr Ho Ow	Sn Ow	Ba Ow	Lo Ea Ow	Sh Ea Ow
MISSISSIPPI RIVER																	
1. Yellow River Forest									299	32	7	4	7		2		
2. SE Clayton County			1						60	3	106	8	5	1	3	2	1
3. Dubuque					3	1			180		62	1	1				
4. Green Island	5	2							267		95	13	8		5	1	1
5. Clinton	1	7	4	2	89	12			191		28	10	6		7	1	1
6. Princeton		2	1	1	1552	600	1	4	441	16	190	3	7		8	2	
7. Davenport	1	4	6	2	3527	218	1		1449	4	414	4	22	1	29	1	
8. Andalusia	1			2	64	9			103	12	466	7	20		23		11
9. Muscatine		6	4	1	142	44			192		266	12	11		11		
10. W Mercer County			3	1	666	30			91	1	141	6	11		28	1	
11. Burlington	8			1	629	5			318	9	151	6	4		5		1
12. Keokuk	1				14801	273	1	2	365	5	50		3	1			
Subtotals	17	21	19	10	21473	1192	3	6	3956	82	1976	74	105	3	121	8	15
MISSOURI RIVER																	
13. Westfield									115	11	5	1	2		1		
14. Sioux City	10		1						801	191	5	1	4		2		
15. DeSoto NWR				1					84	9	52		4		6		
16. Omaha	2				63				293	33	54		3		5		
Subtotals	12	0	1	1	63	0	0	0	1293	244	116	2	13	0	14	0	0
NORTHERN THIRD																	
17. NW Clayton County									96	6	12	9	12		9	3	5
18. Decorah									337		3	5	2		4		
19. Bremer County									140	21	3	1	1		2		
20. Mason City	6								534		4	1	8		3		
21. Union Slough NWR									136	11	8		3		1		
22. Spirit Lake	422				17	4			78	26	9	2	4	1			1
23. Humboldt County									31		4		2		2		1
24. Cherokee									178	1	63		1				
25. Canton									421	30	1	6	18			2	
Subtotals	428	0	0	0	17	4	0	0	1951	95	107	24	51	1	21	5	7
MIDDLE THIRD																	
26. Lost Nation				3					166	14	64	9	3		5	1	
27. North Linn									197	6	47		2		1		
28. Cedar Rapids	1		1		184	7			582	8	68	2			10		
29. Iowa City					156				213	22	294		3	2	8		
30. Amana									40	3	30	1			1		
31. Buchanan County									181	47	5	1	3		2		2
32. Cedar Falls-Waterloo					1				635	16	11	1	1		3		
33. Eldora-Union									40	5	49						
34. Grinnell			1						12	7	8		5		3		
35. Ames	1		1						331	38	260	3	18	cw	16	1	
36. Saylorville Reservoir				1	6836	348	2	2	103	154	176	11	31		15	2	3
37. Des Moines	16		1		6278	159	1		772	3	72		2	1	10		
38. Neal Smith NWR									115	20	69		cw		3		cw
39. SE Webster County									126	4	16		1		1		
40. Boone County				1					163	6	12	3	2		5	1	
41. Jamaica	38				2				44	53	8	2	1		2	1	1
42. Dallas County									27	2	27		3		3		
43. Carroll County	6								39	54	10	1	3		1		
44. Sac County									1	2	2		1	cw			
45. Ida County				1					32	43	2		1		1	4	1
Subtotals	62	0	4	6	13457	514	3	2	3819	507	1230	34	80	3	90	10	7
SOUTHERN THIRD																	
46. Red Rock Reservoir			1	1	13246	1215	2	1	95	31	49		1	2	4		
47. Rathbun Reservoir					439	27			17	1	11	5	4	1	5		
48. Lamoni									237	55	20	1	1		4	cw	1
49. NE Madison County									50	1	13		1				
50. Union County	119								22	8		1	1		2		5
51. Taylor County									68	3	6		1				
52. Cass County									12		59		2		1		
53. Shenandoah	101	2		3					13	34	8		1	cw	2		1
Subtotals	220	2	1	4	13685	1242	2	1	514	133	166	7	12	3	18	0	7
TOTALS	739	23	25	21	48695	2952	8	9	11533	1061	3595	141	261	10	264	23	36

No S-w Ow	Be Ki	Re He Wo	Re Be Wo	Ye Be Sa	Do Wo	Ha Wo	No Fl	Pi Wo	Am Ke	Me	Pe Fa	Ea Ph	No Sh	sh sp	Bl Ja	Am Cr	Ho La	Bl Ca Ch	Tu Ti	Re Br Nu	Wh Br Nu
	4	3	39		23	10	8	10	16						121	281	100	44	9	12	37
5	7	6	79		64	39	3	4	4	1			3		140	99	168	148	27	2	104
	6	6	59	1	67	4	5	2	19				1		88	93		134	24	6	50
2	7	17	69	4	47	24	59	13	29	1		1	6		167	135	21	89	13	2	53
	5	13	67	4	50	24	7	2	23			1		1	143	668	50	152	25	27	85
	9	21	48		50	17	11	5	34	1			1		118	85	22	113	13	3	55
3	13	25	143	8	178	44	18	25	32		4		1		246	115		382	32	7	212
	9	22	63	6	137	12	28	2	20	1					92	80	185	155	43	36	90
1	1	19	75	1	58	14	13	17	25		2				129	74	4	162	57	4	92
1	12	8	82	2	75	23	24	15	30			2			146	59		197	30		135
	7	36	54	2	30	12	13	3	32	cw	2				133	193	15	87	6	4	80
	4	7	52	2	41	11	29	7	15		1	1			116	9173	34	123	30	1	39
12	84	183	830	30	820	234	218	105	279	4	9	5	12	1	1639	11055	599	1786	309	104	1032
	1		19		27	4	5	1					3		17	126		32			32
	1		33	2	60	15	31		5				1		111	65		106		5	60
	2	9	113		60	24	34	3	10	2			1		72	55		161	5	3	143
	8	1	137	4	102	14	53	9	24	1			1		93	80	5	176	30	2	180
0	12	10	302	6	249	57	123	13	39	3	0	0	6	0	293	326	5	475	35	10	415
1	2	2	48		68	23	5	3	3	1		1	1		194	221	200	132	11	3	86
2	9	3	79	cw	76	22	7	12	11	1			2	1	208	464		161	21	9	104
	3	12	32		18	3	4	4	14	1			1		78	189		82		4	25
cw	5		22		63	25	2	1	3				1		74	2802		136	cw		44
			6		10	1			1	1					41	405	1371	1			5
1	1	1	12		43	18	2								48	107	1	109			47
			11		13	4				3					33	33	94	78			32
		8			12	3	1		3					1	35	141	247	16			3
1			14		23	8	4	cw					1		71	90	562	44		2	19
5	20	26	224	0	326	107	25	20	35	7	0	1	6	2	782	4452	2475	759	32	18	365
	2	65	48	1	51	16	16	4	42			1			240	77	11	75	2	46	48
	2	7	45		40	15	6	1	11				1		105	61	47	85	4	3	38
	7	14	133		183	38	12	7	21				2		158	1267		471	51	7	162
	2	16	80		94	19	17	8	31	2				1	173	134		198	49	6	81
	2	2	21		18	3	3	2	3						25	50	90	30		1	19
3	4	4	56		31	23	4	2	16	2			1		133	255	4	63		7	43
2	2		48		57	24	3	2	12	1			1		64	4978		139		2	47
	2	2	29		25	1	2	3	6	1			1		58	74		39			40
	1	5	10		3	2	4		4						15	486		4			12
	13	4	252	2	211	55	10	2	6	1			3		284	3950	41	482	2	13	263
	2	3	127		145	36	52	4	14	2			3		272	159	16	416	29	14	184
1	7	7	124		78	23	43	8	4	4					144	11250		211	8	6	136
		4	30		20	1	7								48	74	388	27		1	18
	2	3	17		11	7	1		2				1		30	40		20			12
	1	38	151	1	171	46	15	10	5	2					246	174	441	267	34	5	142
	4	20	41	1	31	17	14		17	1					121	56		26		2	56
		1	50		28	9	24	5	7	1			1		44	73		58	6	4	55
	1		11		11	11	9		6						24	23		3		2	10
	1		10		12	4	2		1						23	21	474	14			11
2	1		11		22	5	10		9	1			3		178	127	10	1			16
8	56	195	1294	5	1242	355	254	58	217	18	0	1	17	1	2385	23329	1522	2629	185	119	1393
	4	10	65	1	31	14	32	4	17	1					145	374	12	180	9	5	63
	2	6	18	2	15	4	20		25						65	109	4	121	9	4	22
	1	12	46		19	9	42	cw	33				1	1	163	277	4	43	13	6	45
	1		37	1	14	4	17	3	15					1	78	151	200	23	2		15
1	1		9		16	2	13		29				1		33	111	6	14		1	5
	1	7	14		24	3	23		10				1		54	177		2			3
		3	8		8	2	9		6						42	10		5			7
	2	6	11		7	1	6		9	1			1		39	86	10	4	1		15
1	12	44	208	4	134	39	162	7	144	2	0	0	4	2	619	1295	236	392	34	16	175
26	184	458	2858	45	2771	792	782	203	714	34	9	7	45	6	5718	40457	4837	6041	595	267	3380

Table 2c. Christmas Bird Count Data, 2017–2018

Location	Br Cr	Wi Wr	Ca Wr	Go Cr Ki	Ea Bl	He Th	Am Ro	Eu St	Ce Wa	La Lo	Sn Bu	Ye Ru Wa	Am Tr Sp	Fo Sp	Da Ey Ju	Wh Cr Sp	Ha Sp
MISSISSIPPI RIVER																	
1. Yellow River Forest	5			1	8		5	657	11			2	60		294	2	
2. SE Clayton County	16	2	5	5	27	1	3	609	317	239	11	1	865	7	1905	27	
3. Dubuque	7		7	1	26		1	1134	27			2	120		324		
4. Green Island	15	5	5	18	86	8	98	1112	717			41	258		620	13	
5. Clinton	26	1	7	9	26	2	12	876		8	1	13	95		412		
6. Princeton	27		5	4				2303	5	4	1	2	377	1	256	1	
7. Davenport	46	11	35	1	31	5	55	27505	58			8	645	4	722	44	
8. Andalusia	19	3	11	5	24	20	27	689	19	207	1	10	830		662	3	
9. Muscatine	9	3	15	2	47	3	101	771	93	5		1	153	1	348	41	
10. W Mercer County	12	5	19	13	18	19	37	1137	469			24	612	3	535	18	
11. Burlington	6	3	12		105	7	41	1450	123	201		17	173	2	411		
12. Keokuk	6		51	13	40		283	4507	160	65		16	66		250	8	
Subtotals	194	33	172	72	438	65	663	42750	1999	729	14	137	4254	18	6739	157	0
MISSOURI RIVER																	
13. Westfield	2				17		13	504	49	275			238		160		
14. Sioux City	6		2		12		55	987	51			2	455		220	7	8
15. DeSoto NWR	7		13	6	106		200	1068	167			6	404		466	1	17
16. Omaha	8	3	50	4	73		369	1290	137			9	272		550	14	19
Subtotals	23	3	65	10	208	0	637	3849	404	275	0	17	1369	0	1396	22	44
NORTHERN THIRD																	
17. NW Clayton County	12	1		3	26	1		512	83	119	6	12	1135		1825	1	1
18. Decorah	11		1	2				1074	40			6	333		450		
19. Bremer County								545		10			172		151		
20. Mason City	5							246	5			1	82		159		
21. Union Slough NWR							2	204		642	100		291		71		1
22. Spirit Lake	6			1			7	552	4				88		48		
23. Humboldt County	1							114	16	180			96		97		
24. Cherokee	1						1	522	35				89		119		
25. Canton	6				5		12	367	121	19			191		479		
Subtotals	42	1	1	6	31	1	22	4136	304	970	106	19	2477	0	3399	1	2
MIDDLE THIRD																	
26. Lost Nation	26	2		5	6	3	12	971	2	38	2	4	447	1	545		
27. North Linn	6		2	1	11	1	2	962	49	3	1		127		760	1	
28. Cedar Rapids	17	3	5	8	12	2	8	1251	53			3	87	1	531	5	
29. Iowa City	6		9		23	2	4	1707	182			4	229	1	364	36	
30. Amana	1				27			50	40	20			120		230	7	
31. Buchanan County	14	1		2	1	1	6	915	35	3		4	105	1	191		
32. Cedar Falls-Waterloo	5							448	31				185		342		
33. Eldora-Union	2		1					97					30		96		
34. Grinnell	2		2		4			337	1				21		23		
35. Ames	34	5	3	3	14	2	41	1524	136	65		2	558	2	701		1
36. Saylorville Reservoir	18	1	7	2	106		108	896	521	40	4	15	1696	4	1012	1	1
37. Des Moines	6		3	1	28		27	1044	5				188		707		2
38. Neal Smith NWR					9		2	530	18	119			753		662	4	cw
39. SE Webster County	1		1				1	271	2				1		28		
40. Boone County	4	1	4		61	1	9	491	27	260			254	1	898		2
41. Jamaica		1			4		206	2894	15				260		253		
42. Dallas County	5	2	3		16		206	131	36			8	107		108		
43. Carroll County	1				2		4	1315	171	4		1	91		86		4
44. Sac County										109	4		208		76		cw
45. Ida County							84	785	31	3080			332		338		
Subtotals	148	16	40	22	324	12	720	16619	1355	3741	11	41	5799	11	7951	54	10
SOUTHERN THIRD																	
46. Red Rock Reservoir	7		8		43		44	327	62			6	557		390		
47. Rathbun Reservoir			1	1	57	5	355	1245	275			40	213	1	225		
48. Lamoni	8	1	3		183		595	740	314	78		19	555	3	1019	1	4
49. NE Madison County	1				27		196	1138	65				280		210	11	3
50. Union County	1				35		594	374	50	225		11	164	16	320		
51. Taylor County					9		94	401	15				210		303	8	6
52. Cass County							5	314	55				2		29		
53. Shenandoah			2		1		14	1198	25	cw			537		315		4
Subtotals	17	1	14	1	355	5	1897	5737	861	303	0	76	2518	20	2811	20	17
TOTALS	424	54	292	111	1356	83	3939	73091	4923	6018	131	290	16417	49	22296	254	73

Wh Th Sp	Sa Sp	So Sp	Li Sp	Sw Sp	No Ca	We Me	me sp	Re Wi Bl	Br He Co	Ru Bl	Co Gr	Ho Fi	Pu Fi	Co Re	Re Cr	Pi Si	Am Go	Ho Sp	Eu Tr Sp
		2		2	39							33	11			4	39	208	
13		16		1	297		1	3	231	1	1	95	43	2		13	128	937	1
1		6			57			1				107	5		1	37	76	515	
21		6		2	174				1			9	125			1	71	209	3
7		9		17	170			300	3		2	56	71			19	56	847	33
8		24		6	155		1	7	5			73	4			5	30	435	52
110		123	1	25	462	3		25210	3278	20	18058	283	21		7	21	200	1838	204
97		35		13	184	2		101	38		1	219	45	2		46	103	807	110
20		42		4	198			170		3	3	103	5	6			94	630	464
25		70		9	279	1	36	395	1			13	32				62	416	302
23	1	20		2	157			4	20	16		18	6		2	10	72	284	236
85	1	21		3	188			59	253			59	6			5	51	168	98
410	2	374	1	84	2360	6	38	26250	3830	40	18065	1068	374	10	10	161	982	7294	1503
					18			710	1			27		45			46	23	
7		5	1	1	65	8		49				32	15	2		27	82	214	
2					166		227	1	2	8	5	46	21				245	112	
15		15		4	167		122	517	2	26	2	109	17			31	219	279	
24	0	20	1	5	416	8	349	1277	5	34	7	214	53	47	0	58	592	628	0
7		9			197			2	141			141	19	1	15	25	98	1255	
1		2		1	78							54	13	cw		35	178	319	
		1			64		1	2		8	3	14	6			3	26	430	
1					69			cw				75				cw	42	274	
		162			5		3	153			1						1	301	
					12			189	18		6	24		29		1	38	199	
		1			36			170				4					1	204	
					1			38				19					1	167	
					14	38		5		115		50	8	18		1	31	529	
9	0	175	0	1	476	38	4	559	159	123	10	381	46	48	15	65	416	3678	0
40				3	114		2	386	2			5				2	9	1341	52
14		4		8	216			1	1		1	30	13				9	859	5
41		15		1	353						1	184	10			57	76	1141	43
37		8		1	180			948				132	16			92	176	698	26
1		7		1	45			11			3	25				4	20	150	105
5		3			111		1	57	80			52	15	1		8	25	426	40
		3			107		6	19				143	18			3	35	276	
5					19			200				30	1				10	139	6
					33							5					15	35	
43		10	1	1	361		9	109	2		3	282	3	2		27	208	681	
22		29		25	350	1	6	1271	4	6	1	195	11	115		4	179	316	
39		7			249			230			17	55	11	1		11	107	367	
		1		4	94	21	21	371			1	81	1				25	347	13
					10			204				5				1	62	88	
9		2			194		1	331			1	209	27	37			266	637	
10		4			47			2601		31	12	20					26	60	
2					23		1	515	3			19					35	49	1
		2	1		20		1	26	3		7	34				13	20	241	
					9			40		10	1	5					14	17	
3		45			28		8	9	1		1	28		1			26	71	
271	0	140	2	44	2563	22	56	7329	96	47	49	1539	126	157	0	222	1343	7939	291
29		19		1	143		9	522			701	33	9			2	54	251	
43		10	1		75		2	4	105		5	33	16			5	65	132	
22	4	13		2	85		2	856	82		6	14	17			cw	59	289	
2					41	1		60	30		3	14					59	108	
1		2			52		6	1				23	16				26	4	
		1			48	17		23		146		21					9	26	
					33							1					17	180	
4	2	21		1	60		129	414		2	34	13				3	2	176	
101	6	66	1	4	537	18	148	1880	217	148	749	152	58	0	0	10	291	1166	0
815	8	775	5	138	6352	92	595	37295	4307	392	18880	3354	657	262	25	516	3624	20705	1794

Table 3. Species reported on three or fewer Christmas Bird Counts, 2017–2018

Species	Counts
Mute Swan	Ames (2)
Blue-winged Teal	Shenandoah (4)
Cinnamon Teal	Bremer County (1)
Mallard x Am. Black Duck	Saylorville (1), Union County (1)
scaup sp.	Yellow River Forest (48)
Surf Scoter	Keokuk (2)
White-winged Scoter	Spirit Lake (2)
Black Scoter	Keokuk (1)
Long-tailed Duck	Keokuk (1), Spirit Lake (cw)
duck sp.	Omaha (10)
Gray Partridge	Ames (5)
Golden Eagle	Yellow River Forest (3), NW Clayton County (2), Boone County (1)
Common Loon	Jamaica (1)
loon sp.	Red Rock (1)
Great Egret	Davenport (1)
buteo sp.	Yellow River Forest (1), Boone County (2), Taylor County (3)
Virginia Rail	Keokuk (1)
Franklin's Gull	Saylorville (1)
Great Black-backed Gull	Davenport (2)
Glaucous Gull	Davenport (2), Saylorville (1)
gull sp.	Iowa City (22)
Prairie Falcon	DeSoto NWR (1), Neal Smith NWR (1)
Loggerhead Shrike	Union County (2)
Marsh Wren	Keokuk (1), Omaha (1), Shenandoah (1)
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Clinton (1), Andalusia (1), Lost Nation (4)
Townsend's Solitaire	SE Clayton County (1), Green Island (1), Carroll County (1)
Gray Catbird	Cedar Rapids (1)
Northern Mockingbird	Green Island (1), Amana (1), Lamoni (8)
Brown Thrasher	Ames (cw)
Orange-crowned Warbler	Clinton (1)
Palm Warbler	Muscatine (1), Lost Nation (1)
Field Sparrow	Green Island (3), Davenport (2), Cedar Rapids (1)
Vesper Sparrow	Ida County (1)
Le Conte's Sparrow	DeSoto NWR (1)
sparrow sp.	Neal Smith NWR (5)
Spotted Towhee	Omaha (1), Shenandoah (1)
Eastern Towhee	Neal Smith NWR (1)
Dickcissel	Burlington (1)
Eastern Meadowlark	W. Mercer County (3), Lost Nation (1)
Brewer's Blackbird	Boone County (1)
Great-tailed Grackle	Omaha (49), Saylorville (1)
blackbird sp.	Omaha (60), Boone County (6)

Field Reports—Winter 2017–2018

Francis L. Moore

WEATHER

Iowa temperatures for the three mid-winter months averaged 20.6ºF or 1.5ºF below normal while precipitation totaled 3.09 inches less than normal. This ranks as the 68th coldest and 66th driest winter among 145 years of records.

The first three weeks of December were mostly much warmer than normal, averaging 7.7ºF above normal. However, a turn toward colder weather began on the 22nd and intensified on Christmas Day with temperatures over the final ten days of the month averaging 14.4ºF lower than normal. This season's first 0ºF temperatures were recorded on the morning of the 7th at Primghar and Sibley. Sioux City airport recorded the lowest temperatures of the month with a –24ºF reading at midnight New Year's Eve. Meanwhile subzero daily maximum temperatures were recorded in Iowa locations on six of the final seven days of the month. Forest City reported the lowest maximum temperature of the month with a –13ºF 'high' on the 31st. The lowest wind chill reading was –46ºF recorded at 9 p.m. on the 31st at Storm Lake. The very dry weather pattern that began in mid-October continued through 20 December. Precipitation for the remainder of the month averaged near normal. A statewide average of only 0.20 inches of snow fell through 20 December. A slower start to the snow season has not occurred since 1960. However, light snow was frequent for the remainder of the month. The largest precipitation event of the month came on the 29th when snow fell across the northeast three-fourths of Iowa with greatest storm totals of 4 to 6 inches occurring from the Spirit Lake area southeastward through Fort Dodge and Marshalltown to Muscatine. Monthly precipitation totals (rain plus the liquid equivalent of snow) varied from 0.19 inches at Charles City, their lowest December total since 1903, to 0.94 inches at Iowa City. Precipitation totals were below normal at every reporting point in the state for the second consecutive month.

For the third consecutive month Iowans endured a wide range of temperature extremes as periods of very cold weather were nearly matched with

equally warm episodes. Very cold weather prevailed for the first six days of the new year and again from the 12th through the 17th. Overall there were ten days averaging more than 10°F colder than normal and the same number of days averaging more than 10°F above normal. Temperature extremes varied from lows of –28°F at Battle Creek, Sheldon, Sioux City, Washta, and Webster City on the morning of the 2nd to highs of 60°F at Keosauqua and Ottumwa an the 26th. Wind chill readings dipped to –50°F at Estherville on the 1st, the lowest wind chill in the state since a –53°F value, also at Estherville, on January 2, 2010. A major storm system event began with rain statewide, including some thunderstorms, and transitioned to a blizzard over far northwestern Iowa on the 22nd. Snow totals reached as high as 14.4 inches at Spirit Lake while wind gusts reached 54 mph at Spencer. At Waterloo a January daily record rain amount of 2.01 inches fell on the 22nd. Overall this storm system accounted for nearly 80% of the state's January precipitation. Other than the major blizzard in far northwest Iowa, snowfall was notably lacking across Iowa during January. There was only one statewide snow event on the 14th–15th when most areas saw one to two inches of snow. The season-to-date snow total through the end of January stood at only 9.8 inches or 9.3 inches below normal. This was the lowest snow total at this point in the season since 2003 and 19th lowest on record.

Very cold weather prevailed early in the month with temperatures averaging 10.6°F colder than normal over the first days of February. Warmer weather dominated the remainder of the month with above normal temperatures occurring on 11 of the final 15 days of the month. The month's lowest temperatures were –18°F readings at Cresco and Webster City on the morning of the 6th while on the other extreme Lamoni reached 70°F on the 27th. Also notable was the wide range of temperatures on the 19th when daytime high temperatures varied from 18°F at Rock Rapids to 68°F at Keosauqua. Precipitation was much more frequent during February than during the previous three months with storm systems passing through Iowa almost every day between the 2nd and 11th and again from the 17th through the 24th. The largest storm event of the month came on the 19th–20th when thunderstorms rumbled over much of the southeast two-thirds of Iowa. Also noteworthy was a snow event on the 9th–10th which brought two inches or more of snow to the northeast one-half of the state with a maximum amount of 11.2 inches just north of Fort Dodge. Monthly precipitation totals varied from 0.68 inches at Sioux Center to 4.24 inches at Keokuk. Snow was frequent and widespread with a statewide average of 11.0 inches or 4.2 inches above normal. Fort Dodge reported the most snow with 26.5 inches while Centerville reported the least with 4.6 inches.

Iowa temperatures for the three mid-winter months averaged 20.6ºF or 1.5ºF below normal while precipitation totaled 3.09 inches or 0.25 inches less than normal. This ranks as the 68th coldest and 66th driest winter among 145 years of records.

GENERAL TRENDS

Highest numbers of waterfowl reports were from early December and late February with fewer found in January. Overall duck numbers were below average during the period with most of the reports and higher numbers showing up on and after 15 February. All three scoter species plus Long-tailed Duck made a showing during the period.

Most gallinaceous bird numbers were still on the low side with many above average and numbers increasing from last year. There were 12 reports of Northern Bobwhite and nine for Gray Partridge, indicating that these species are starting to show higher numbers. American White Pelicans were found in good numbers at Red Rock and Saylorville Reservoirs and at the locks and dams along the Mississippi River throughout the period. There were several late winter reports of Turkey Vulture this year beginning on 25 February. Bald Eagles were found in good numbers along the Mississippi River and at the Army Corps of Engineer impoundments but were also down from the last few years. Reports of accipiters were fair this season with average numbers of Sharp-shinned Hawks found and usual numbers of Cooper's Hawks this winter. Northern Shrikes were found in good numbers throughout the state.

Gull reports were widespread in all three months. For northern owl species, Snowy Owls were found in average numbers and there were good numbers of Northern Saw-whet Owls at the usual locations. Long-eared Owls were more abundant in all three months and Short-eared Owls were more numerous in December and February. Merlins were widely reported but only a few Peregrine and Prairie falcons were noted with a record of Gyrfalcon in the mix.

Numbers of Horned Larks, Lapland Longspurs, and Snow Buntings were more numerous in December and January with a few records from February, mostly in the northern and central parts of the state. There were good numbers of wintering sparrows throughout the period. Blackbirds made a good showing throughout the period. Winter finch numbers this winter were up from last year with reports of both species of crossbills, Common Redpolls, several Hoary Redpoll records, and good numbers of Pine Siskins. Eurasian Tree Sparrows continue to expand their range with several found in Buchanan and Polk counties.

UNUSUAL SPECIES

The records committee accepted twelve records of casual and accidental species this winter: Cinnamon Teal, Barrow's Goldeneye, Great Black-backed Gull, Gyrfalcon, Mountain Bluebird, Evening Grosbeak, and Hoary Redpoll.

COMMENT

I really appreciate everyone submitting reports and providing material for this report. It was good to see nice details on some of the rarer species come with the documentations that were submitted. Please continue to provide these details for both rare and for common species on unusual dates. Without this information some species cannot be included in the report and an important report might be left out of the records that should be included; only the person actually seeing the bird can provide such details. Details can be a short physical description of the bird that allows for separation from any similar species. For many species, this can be one sentence. It doesn't take much to point out the relevant features to give some confidence that the bird was seen well and properly identified. Please take the time to make yourself aware of when some of our species are out of season and take short notes to document the record.

Please keep entering your records on the Iowa Ornithologists' Union website so that they can continue to be added to the archives and be a part of our long-term database. We are also able to integrate eBird records into this report by downloading those records from the eBird database and merge it into the Iowa Ornithologists' Union records. There were more than 47,000 records from eBird this season that were merged into the regular I.O.U. records, which made the entire output very large and made the total records more inclusive.

SPECIES DATA

ALL CAPS = Casual or Accidental. * = documented, ph = photo. County names are in italics. Full names of contributors are at the end of the article. Abbreviations used: **ad** = adult, **CBC** = Christmas bird count, **imm** = immature, **juv** = juvenile, **L** = lake, **L&D** = lock and dam, **M** = Marsh, **m.ob.** = many observers, **NWR** = national wildlife refuge, **P** = park, **RA** = recreation area, **Res** = reservoir, **R** = river, **Sl** = Slough, **SP** = state park, **WA** = Wildlife Area.

Snow Goose: Highest numbers were 50,000 on 26 Feb at 1224 Ironwood Ave, Packwood *Jefferson* (JGC), 100,000 on 26 Feb at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* (KVS), and 200,000 on 27 Feb at Blue L *Monona* (GLV).

Ross's Goose: There were 47 reports with high counts of 120 on 26 Feb at Little Wall L *Hamilton* (CL) and 158 on 28 Feb at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC).

Greater White-fronted Goose: There were a few records from Dec and Jan, with most records from Feb. Highest numbers were 4000 on 25 Feb at Cone Marsh *Louisa* (SD), 13,250 on Feb 27 at Waterloo/Cedar Falls *Black Hawk* (CL), and 7000 on Feb 28 at Green Island WA *Jackson* (MHB).

Cackling Goose: Highest numbers were 203 on 2 Dec at East Okoboji L *Dickinson* (LAS), 170 on 2 Dec at Orleans *Dickinson* (AB), 110 on 22 Dec at West Lake P *Johnson* (JJu), and 120 on 24 Feb at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB).

Canada Goose: Flocks of several thousand were fairly common throughout the period at various locations around the state. The largest concentrations were 8500 on 16 Dec at Spirit L *Dickinson* (JJu), 9200 on 24 Feb at Green Valley SP *Union* (JG), 10,000 on 26 Feb at Russell *Lucas* (MV), and 50,000 on 27 Feb *Woodbury* (GLV).

Mute Swan: Four reports this winter: 2 ad 15–16 Dec at Ada Hayden Heritage P *Story* (WO), one 13 Jan at Mississippi R *Muscatine* (KJM), one 24 Jan at Riverside Cemetery *Marshall* (JG), and one 2–4 Feb at Mississippi R *Scott* (CRE, AB).

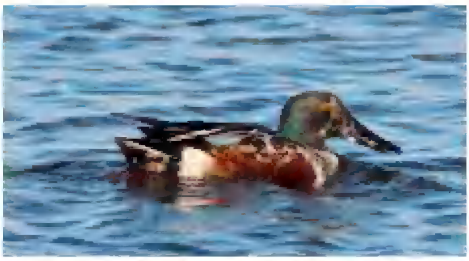
Trumpeter Swan: There were many reports from around the state this winter. Highest counts were 143 on 27 Dec at Beemer's Pond *Hamilton* (AS), 186 on 10 Jan at Booneville *Dallas* (JJ), 239 on 28 Jan at Heron Bend *Lee* (CO), and 160 on 24 Feb at Great Western Bike Trail *Warren* (JG).

Tundra Swan: There were 21 reports with a high count of 49 on 15 Dec on Pikes Peak SP *Clayton* (BRM), 13 on 16 Jan at LeClair *Scott* (SF), and 60 on 26 Feb *Jackson* (BW).

Wood Duck: Twenty-one reports this year with highest numbers the last few days of Feb including 6 on 27 Feb at Waterloo/Cedar Falls *Black Hawk* (CL), 17 on 28 Feb at Green Island WA *Jackson* (BW), and 6 on 28 Feb at Sycamore Bottoms *Johnson* (JM).

Blue-winged Teal: Two reports: one 3 Dec at Bacon Creek P *Woodbury* (RR) and 2 on 16 Dec at Riverton WA *Freemont* (RS).

CINNAMON TEAL: One on 15 Dec at Sweet Marsh WA *Bremer* (*TM–ph).



Northern Shoveler, West Lake Park, Johnson, *16 Dec 2017. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*

Northern Shoveler: Highest number reported: 92 on 16 Dec at West Lake P *Johnson* (MHB). Other high numbers by month: 7 on 6 Jan at Riverton WA *Fremont* (CWe) and 5 on 25 Feb *Wayne* (KB).

Gadwall: Reported throughout the period. There were 55 reports in Dec with a peak of 230 on 2 Dec at Polk City WA *Polk* (AB), 18 reports in Jan with a peak of 13 on 15 Jan at Big Creek L *Polk* (AB), and 32 reports

in Feb with a peak of 80 on 28 Feb at Red Oak Rd *Allamakee* (BRM).

American Wigeon: There were 39 reports this winter with a high of 48 on 19 Dec at Mississippi R *Clinton* (KJM), 2 on 8 Jan along Great River Rd *Allamakee* (BRM), and 80 on 28 Feb at Green Island WA *Jackson* (BW).

Mallard: The highest numbers reported were 12,000 on 16 Dec at Riverton WA *Fremont* (SR), 8000 on 19 Feb *Clinton* (KJM), and 7504 on 17 Feb at Okoboji *Dickinson* (JJu).

American Black Duck: There were 54 reports with all coming from east and central Iowa this season. High numbers were 7 on 17 Dec *Black Hawk* (RH) and 8 on 19 Feb at Deere Dike *Dubuque* (TM).

Northern Pintail: There were 92 reports for the period. High counts were 800 on 19 Dec at Mississippi R *Clinton* (KJM), 700 on 28 Feb at Green Island WA *Jackson* (BW), and 500 on 28 Feb at Jester Park *Polk* (WW).

Green-winged Teal: High counts by month were 300 on 3 Dec at Polk City *Polk* (AB), 2 on 5–20 Jan at Ada Hayden Heritage P *Story* (WO), and 15 on 28 Feb at Cone Marsh WA *Louisa* (LGR).

Canvasback: A total of 58 reports were submitted with high counts of 1000 on 8 Dec at Red Oak Rd *Allamakee* (JC), 2810 on 19 Dec at Mississippi R *Clinton* (KJM), and 875 on 4 Feb at Le Claire *Scott* (AB).

Redhead: High counts were 69 on 2 Dec at Orleans *Dickinson* (JJu), 40 on 27 Feb at Cone Marsh WA *Louisa* (BC), and 30 on 28 Feb at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC).

Ring-necked Duck: Highest numbers were 490 on 2 Dec at Polk City WA *Polk* (AB), 116 on 16 Dec at Riverton WA *Fremont* (RS), 76 on 24 Feb at Green Valley SP *Union* (JG), and 72 on 28 Feb at Cone Marsh WA *Louisa* (LGR).

Greater Scaup: There were 24 reports this season with high counts of 11 on 2 Dec at Orleans *Dickinson* (JJu), 10 on 17 Dec at Mississippi R *Clinton* (KJM), and 5 on 26 Feb at L Manawa *Pottawattamie* (CWe).

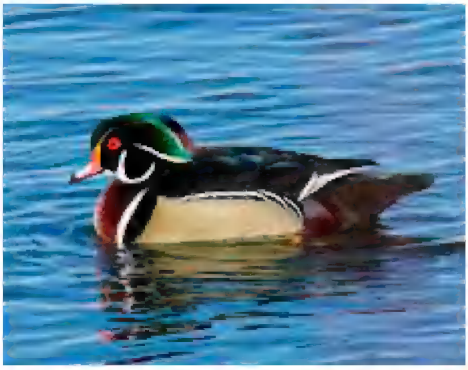
Lesser Scaup: A total of 96 reports this winter. High counts: 70 on 2 Dec at Orleans *Dickinson* (JJu), 78 on 17 Dec at Davenport *Scott* (RSa), and 170 on 19 Dec at Mississippi R *Muscatine* (KJM).

White-winged Scoter: All: 1–2 on 2–16 Dec at Big Spirit L *Dickinson* (LAS).

Black Scoter: All: 3 on 2 Dec at Big Spirit L *Dickinson* (LAS) and one female on 2 Dec at Pool 9 *Allamakee* (SJD).

Long-tailed Duck: All: 1–2 juv males 2–10 Dec at Big Spirit L *Dickinson* (LAS), one juv male 2 Dec at Pool 9, Mississippi R *Allamakee* (SJD), one juv male 3 Dec at Ada Hayden Heritage P *Story* (SJD, WO), one ad female 17 Dec–9 Jan at Red Rock Res *Marion* (AB, SJD, TGS, MP), one female and one juv male 27 Jan–4 Feb at Le Claire *Scott* (MHB, TGS, AB), and 2 ad males 3 Feb at Montrose *Lee* (SJD).

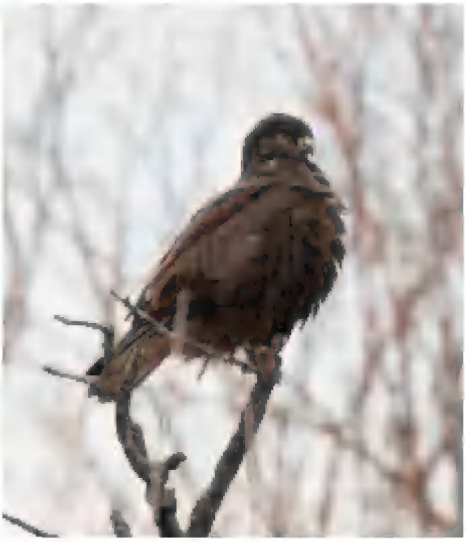
Bufflehead: There were 45 reports with highs of 110 on 2 Dec at Orleans *Dickinson* (JJu), 38 on 28 Feb at



Wood Duck, Trumpeter Marsh, Lee, *1 December 2017. Photograph by Jim Scheib, Iowa City, IA.*

Rough-legged Hawk, rural North Liberty, Johnson, *18 Feb 2018. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*

White-crowned Sparrow (adult), Woodbury, *16 Dec 2017. Photograph by Paul Roisen, Sioux City, IA.*



Rough-legged Hawk, Hawkeye WA, Johnson, *18 Jan 2018. Photograph by Linda Rudolph, Coralville, IA.*

Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon), Kent Park, Johnson, *18 Feb 2018. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*

Hooded Merganser, Coralville, Johnson, *16 Feb 2018. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*

Snowy Owl, Johnson, *8 Jan 2018. Photograph by Dean Hester, North English, IA.*

Eastern Screech-Owl, Graceland Cemetery, Woodbury, *4 Jan 2018. Photograph by Paul Roisen, Sioux City, IA.*

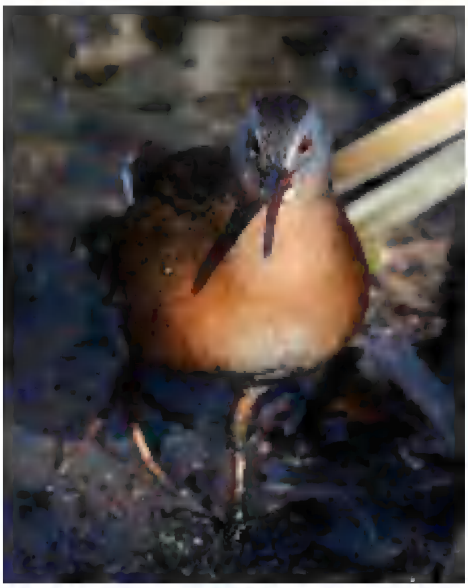
American Tree Sparrow, Woodbury, *16 Dec 2017. Photograph by Paul Roisen, Sioux City, IA.*

Marsh Wren, Montrose, Lee, *18 Dec 2017. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.*

Red-breasted Nuthatch, Jester P, Polk, *13 Jan 2018. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*

Bald Eagle, Hawkeye WA, Johnson, *17 December 2017. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*

American Kestrel, Solon High School, Johnson, *17 Dec 2017. Photograph by Jim Scheib, Iowa City, IA.*



Virginia Rail, Montrose, Lee, *18 Dec 2017. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.*

Horned Lark, Johnson, *18 Feb 2018. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*

Cackling Geese, West Lake Park, Johnson, *16 Dec 2017. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*

Barred Owl, Fairmount Cemetery, Scott, *18 Jan 2018. Photograph by Linda Rudolph, Coralville, IA.*

Red Oak Rd *Allamakee* (BRM), and 36 on 28 Feb at Cone Marsh *Louisa* (LGR).

Common Goldeneye: High counts were 2000 on 15 Dec Mississippi R *Scott* (SF), 2000 on 5 Jan at Mississippi R *Scott* (BC), and 1580 on 4 Feb at Le Claire *Scott* (AB).

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE: One record of one ad male 20–31 Jan at Le Claire *Scott* (*JF, *MHB, *BC).

Hooded Merganser: High counts: 34 on 16 Dec at Rathbun L *Appanoose* (RLC), 19 on 25 Dec at Sycamore Access *Polk* (AB), and 28 on 28 Feb at Red Oak Rd *Allamakee* (BRM).

Common Merganser: High counts: 2365 on 16 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB), 6400 on 17 Dec at Red Rock Res *Marion* (AB), 4800 on 17 Dec at Red Rock Res *Marion* (AB), and 3240 on 28 Feb at Red Rock Res *Marion* (JG).

Red-breasted Merganser: There were 22 reports. Highest numbers were 45 on 10 Dec at Spirit L *Dickinson* (JJu), 60–77 on 26–28 Feb at Red Rock Res *Marion* (JG).

Ruddy Duck: There were 17 reports with high counts of 18 on 2 Dec at Orleans *Dickinson* (JJu), 20 on 7 Dec at L Manawa *Pottawattamie* (NE), and 40 on 10 Dec at Milford *Dickinson* (JJu).

Northern Bobwhite: Twelve reports this winter compared to two last year with high counts of 12 on 11 Dec at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* (KVS), 13 on 13 Jan at Underwood Ave *Muscatine* (SN), and 15 on 17 Jan at Woodburn *Clarke* (JG).

Gray Partridge: Nine reports this winter season with highs of 18 on 2 Dec southeast of Slater *Polk* (AB), 6 on 6 Dec *Mitchell* (SD), 7 on 14 Feb *Linn* (JF), and 20 on 24 Feb *Humboldt* (JN).

Ring-necked Pheasant: There were 75 reports with the following high counts: 60 on 16 Dec at Owego Wetlands *Woodbury* (GLV), 45 on 29 Jan at Fonda Lagoons *Pocahontas* (ZM), and 52 on 13 Feb at Moeckly Prairie *Polk* (AB).

Wild Turkey: High: 55 on 20 Dec at Harper's Ferry *Allamakee* (PDBS), 67 on 3 Jan at Elkader *Clayton* (DAk), and 60 on 16 Feb at Owego Wetlands *Woodbury* (GLV).

Pied-billed Grebe: Only seven reports, six of them from the central and eastern parts of the state and one from the west. All reports came from Dec this winter.

Horned Grebe: All: one on 19 Dec *Johnson* (JF) and one 27–28 Feb at Cone M *Louisa* (BC).

Eurasian Collared-Dove: Highest counts were 32 on 16 Dec at Brower Sl *Woodbury* (POR), 95 on 17 Dec Saylorville Res *Dallas* (JB), and 32 on 7 Jan at Brenton Feed Lot *Dallas* (JB).

Mourning Dove: High counts of 60 on 2 Dec at Fontana P *Buchanan* (DE), 111 on 17 Dec at Camp Dodge *Polk* (JG), 167 on 17 Dec at Coralville Res *Johnson* (LQ), and 167 on 17 Dec at Quad Cities *Scott* (KJM).

Virginia Rail: One on 18 Dec at Montrose *Lee* (SJD–ph).

American Coot: There were 37 reports with highs of 300 on 2 Dec at Wahpeton *Dickinson* (JJu), 1200 on 4 Dec at DeSoto NWR *Harrison*

(POR), and 110 on 4 Feb at Black Hawk Marsh WA *Sac* (DS).

Sandhill Crane: There were 15 reports this winter with high counts of 38 on 1 Dec at Cone M *Louisa* (FB), 8 on 28 Jan at Cone M *Louisa* (SD), and 8 on 28 Feb at New Haven *Mitchell* (PK).

Killdeer: There were 80 reports with highs of 31 on 27 Feb at Waterloo/Cedar Falls *Black Hawk* (CL), 15 on 28 Feb at Cone M *Louisa* (LGR), and 18 on 28 Feb *Black Hawk* (CL).

American Woodcock: Six reports this season with high counts of 2–3 on 27 Feb at Fairfield *Jefferson* (DCP), 2 on 27 Feb at Farmington *Van Buren* (JCo), and 3 on 28 Feb at Sycamore Bottoms *Johnson* (SD).

Wilson's Snipe: Four reports: 2 on 1 Dec at Montrose M *Lee* (JLF), one 2 Dec at Solon *Johnson* (DR), 2 on 18 Dec *Clinton* (KJM), and one 28 Dec at Praska Farms *Winneshiek* (CLa).

Franklin's Gull: All: one ad 2–17 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD–ph), one 2 Dec at Sandbar Sl *Dickinson* (LAS), and one 27 Feb at Ottumwa Greater P *Wapello* (SFr).

Ring-billed Gull: High counts were 900 on 6 Dec at Fort Madison *Lee* (EG), 1530–3210 on 12 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB), and 1000 on 20 Dec at Johnston Gravel Pits *Polk* (RLC).

Herring Gull: High counts: 1100 on 25 Feb at South Sabula Lakes P *Jackson* (BC), 415 on 16 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB), and 270 on 16 Dec at Red Rock Res *Marion* (AB).

Iceland Gull: There were 29 reports this winter: Highest numbers: 3 on 3 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (BE), 3–4 on 14–19 Dec at Red Rock Res *Marion* (JF), and 3 on 25 Feb at South Sabula Lakes P *Jackson* (JF).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: This species was widely reported in gull flocks in central and eastern Iowa. 1–2 on 1–26 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB, DTh, BE), one 10–17 Dec at Red Rock Res *Marion* (AB, JF), 1–2 on 8 Jan–17 Feb at Quad Cities *Scott* (JF, JLF, TGS, MHB), one 23 Feb at L&D 13 *Clinton* (JF), and 2–3 on 25–26 Feb at South Sabula Lakes P *Jackson* (JF).

Glaucous Gull: Five records this season: one juv & one ad 17 Dec at Quad Cities *Scott* (KJM), one juv 17 Dec at Red Rock Res *Marion* (AB, m. ob.), one juv 16–23 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB, JB, m.ob.), one 8 Jan at Bettendorf *Scott* (JF), and one juv 8–26 Feb at South Sabula Lakes P *Jackson* (JF, m. ob.).

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL: One 1st-cycle continuing from the fall 1–4 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (*SJD, *AMJ, *AB, BE, RLC), one ad & one imm 17 Dec at Quad Cities *Scott* (*BLB), one 1st-cycle 14 Dec–4 Jan at Red Rock Res *Marion* (*JG, *JF, *AB, *SJD), and one ad 8–26 Feb at South Sabula Lakes P *Jackson* (*JF)

Red-throated Loon: One report: one 3–5 Dec at L Macbride *Johnson* (JF, JLF).

Common Loon: All: 1–3 on 2–5 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC, AB), one 8 Dec at Red Oak Rd at Pool 9 *Allamakee* (JC), and one 12–15 Dec at George Wyth SP *Black*

Hawk (TGS).

Double-crested Cormorant: There were only seven reports, all in Dec with 1–2 on 1–25 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RJT), one 2 Dec at Orleans *Dickinson* (JJu), 1–3 on 2–17 Dec at Mississippi R *Scott* (KJM), and one 23 Dec at Mississippi R *Muscatine* (KJM).

American White Pelican: There were 45 reports throughout the period, most below the dams at Saylorville Res *Polk* and Red Rock Res *Marion*. High counts were 150 on 3 Dec at Port Louisa NWR *Louisa* (DG), 130 on 28 Jan at Southside Boat Club, Keokuk *Lee* (CO), and 101 on 16 Feb at L&D 14 *Scott* (BT).

Great Blue Heron: There were 35 reports submitted with a high count of 29 on 21 Dec at Mississippi R *Clinton* (KJM).

Great Egret: There was one report of this species this winter: one 19 Dec at Credit Island P *Scott* (SF).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: There was one report of this species this winter: one 4 Dec at Sweet Marsh WA *Bremer* (KL).

Turkey Vulture: There were three reports this year, a more usual number for winter. All reports were from Feb with one 25 Feb at Newton *Jasper* (CH), 1–2 on 27 Feb at Rathbun L Dam *Appanoose* (TNJ), and one 28 Feb *Warren* (JG).

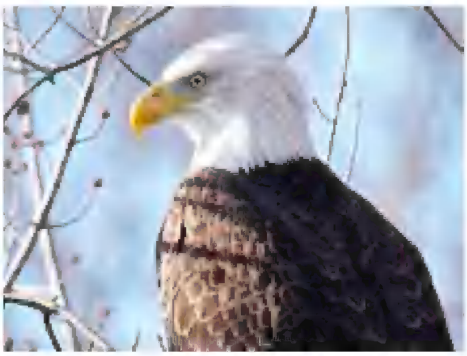
Golden Eagle: There were 16 reports: 7 in Dec, 7 in Jan, and 4 in Feb with 8 from the eastern part of the state, 5 from the western part of the state, and 3 from the central part of the state.

Northern Harrier: There were 105 reports with highs of 10 on 18 Dec at Luton WA *Woodbury* (TJL) and 6 on 12 Feb at Iowa Bottoms, Nebraska City *Fremont* (JGi).

Sharp-shinned Hawk: A total of 76 reports, 11 from western Iowa, 28 in central Iowa, and 37 from eastern Iowa.

Cooper's Hawk: A total of 122 reports, with 35 from the central, 72 from the eastern, and 15 from the western parts of the state. Most reports were of single individuals with several records of 2 or 4 along the Mississippi R.

Northern Goshawk: Five reports: one 4 Dec at L Macbride *Johnson* (JLF), one 27 Dec *Johnson* (POR), one 20 Jan at Badger Creek L *Madison* (DTh), one 18 Jan at Ada Hayden Heritage P *Story* (WO), and one 23–24 Jan at Iowa State University *Story* (EM).



Bald Eagle, Iowa City, Johnson, *21 Feb 2018. Photograph by Jim Scheib, Iowa City, IA.*

Bald Eagle: There were 298 reports: High counts on the Mississippi River included 665 on 12 Dec *Clinton & Scott* (KJM), 453 on 13 Dec *Muscatine & Scott* (KJM), 329 on 16 Dec *Louisa* (KJM). High counts away from the Mississippi R were 180 on 2

Feb at Lily Pond, Amana *Iowa* (DRa), 100 on 25 Feb at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (MR), and 85 on 28 Feb at Saylorville Res *Polk* (JS).

Red-shouldered Hawk: There were 32 reports with a high of 3 on 10 Feb at George Wyth SP *Black Hawk* (TMH). The rest of the reports were of 1–2 individuals, 10 from central, 19 from eastern, and three from western Iowa.

Red-tailed Hawk, Akron south gravel pits, Plymouth, *19 Jan 2018. Photograph by Paul Roisen, Sioux City, IA.*

Red-tailed Hawk: There were 11 dark morph and 7 Krider's/light morph individuals reported this winter. High counts were 22 on 19 Dec *Muscatine* (KJM) and 36 on 23 Dec *Muscatine* (KJM).

Rough-legged Hawk: It was another great winter for this species with 197 reports totaling 295 individuals during the season. High counts: 15 on 17 Jan near Woodburn *Clarke* (JG), 12 on 30 Jan *Woodbury* (GLV), 22 on 3 Feb at Waterman Creek *Clay* (LAS), 22 on 3 Feb at Sutherland *O'Brien* (JJu), and 7 on 11 Feb *Dickinson* (LAS). There were 23 dark morph individuals reported.

Eastern Screech-Owl: There were 41 reports for this common nocturnal species with a high of 12 on 15 Dec *Jackson* (KJM) and 9 on 18 Dec *Clinton* (KJM).

Great Horned Owl: There were 84 reports and a total of 127 individuals of this common species. Highs were 5 on 17 Dec at Saylorville *Polk* (EO) and 12 on 3 Jan *Clayton* (KJM).

Snowy Owl, rural North Liberty, Johnson, *23 Dec 2017. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*

Snowy Owl: This season there were 39 reports found throughout the state with 28 located in Dec, 7 in Jan, and 4 in Feb.

Barred Owl: There were 118 reports of this common species during the period. Highs were 5 on 16 Dec *Linn* (KJM), 5 on 17 Dec at Quad Cities *Scott* (KJM), and 8 on 3 Jan *Clayton* (KJM).

Long-eared Owl: All: one 13 Dec *Boone* (DCH), one 14 Dec at Bays Branch *Guthrie* (RLC), one 15 Dec at Orange City *Sioux* (JJu), one 16 Dec *Story* (EO), one 17 Dec at

Camp Dodge *Polk* (JG), 2 on 3 Jan at Yellow Banks P *Polk* (DTh), one 4 Jan at Buck Creek P *Clayton* (DAk), one 4 Jan at Inwood *Lyon* (CA), 30 on 31 Jan at Washington *Washington* (MHB), 2 on 16 Feb at Ringneck Ridge WA *Dubuque* (TM), and one 28 Feb at Check National Cemetery *Tama* (KCR).

Short-eared Owl: A total of 29 reports from across the state. Highest numbers reported were: 1–5 on 7 Dec–20 Feb at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* (RJT), 1–9 on 19 Dec–15 Jan at Owego Wetlands *Woodbury* (GLV), 1–6 on 4–6 Jan *Muscatine* (SN), 1–4 on 3 Jan–4 Feb at Dunbar Sl *Greene* (MW), 4 on 13 Jan at Cayler Prairie *Dickinson* (LAS), and 4 on 25 Feb *Jackson* (BW).

Northern Saw-whet Owl: All: one 3 Dec at Mondamin *Harrison* (NE), 1–3 on 5 Dec–3 Feb at Morehead Pioneer P *Ida* (DS, GLV), 1–3 on 10 Dec–24 Feb at Hickory Hills P *Tama* (CL), one 16 Dec at Kettleson Hogsback WA *Dickinson* (JJu), 1–2 on 17 Dec–25 Feb at George Wyth SP *Black Hawk* (CL, TMH), one 18 Dec *Clinton* (KJM), 3 on 22 Dec at Guy Grover Timber *Buchanan* (DAk, KJM), one 22 Dec at River Rd *Winneshiek* (PDBS), one 28 Dec–9 Jan at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (ABu), one 3 Jan *Clayton* (KJM), 2–3 on 4 Jan at Buck Creek P *Clayton* (DAk, KJM), one 4 Jan at Inwood *Lyon* (CA), 3 on 4–26 Jan at Grammer Grove WA *Marshall* (MP, RLC), and one 23 Feb at Oak Grove & Big Sioux P *Sioux* (JJu).

Belted Kingfisher: A total of 99 reports of 137 individuals with a high count of 10 on 14 Dec *Louisa* (KJM), 3 on 15 Dec *Jackson* (KJM), and 3 on 21 Dec *Clinton* (KJM).

Red-headed Woodpecker: There were 105 reports this winter. High: 41 on 18 Dec *Clinton* (KJM).

Red-bellied Woodpecker: There were 348 reports with highs of 39 on 17 Dec *Scott* (KJM) and 43 on 4 Jan *Clayton* (KJM).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: There were 25 reports from all areas of the state with an amazing 7 found 26 Feb *Jackson* (BW). All other reports of this species were of one or 2 individuals.

Hairy Woodpecker: There were 180 reports statewide with highs of 22 on 22 Dec *Buchanan* (KJM) and 17 on 4 Jan *Clayton* (KJM).

Northern Flicker: A total of 141 reports were submitted with high counts of 29 on 8 Dec at Big Sand Mound Nature Preserve *Louisa* & *Muscatine* (KJM) and 20 on 15 Dec *Jackson* (KJM).

Pileated Woodpecker: A total of 94 reports of 147 individuals, with all but one from the central and eastern sections of the state. Highs were 16 on 17 Dec at Quad Cities *Scott* (KJM) and 12 on 13 Feb at Big Sand Mound Nature Preserve *Louisa* & *Muscatine* (KJM). The single record from the western part of the state was one 3 Feb at Waterman Creek *Clay* (SP).

American Kestrel: There were 342 reports of a total of 538 individuals. High counts were 17 on 21 Dec *Clinton* (KJM) and 16 on 23 Dec *Muscatine* (KJM).

Merlin: A total of 70 were reported from 31 counties with a high

of 5 on 27 Jan at Jefferson Cemetery *Greene* (MW). Of those that reported races there were 5 *columbarius* and 8 *richardsonii* reported this year.

GYRFALCON: One report of one in rural *Sac* 10 Dec (*DCH).

Peregrine Falcon: All: one 1 Dec–10 Jan at Mississippi R, Burlington *Des Moines* (JLF), 1–2 ad 15 Dec–27 Feb at Iowa State Capitol Grounds *Polk* (AB), one 17 Dec–16 Feb at Lock & Dam 15 *Scott* (EG, SF), 2 on 23 Dec *Muscatine* (KJM), one 20 Jan at Keosippi Mall, Keokuk *Lee* (LD), one 7 Feb at Roller Dam *Linn* (BC), and one 25 Feb at South Sabula Lakes P *Jackson* (TM).

Prairie Falcon: All: one 8 Dec *Iowa* (SJD), one 21 Dec *Dickinson* (ET), one 23 Dec *Pottawattamie* (JJu), one 2 Jan *Woodbury* (GLV), and one 16 Feb at Owego Wetlands *Sioux* (JJu).

Eastern Phoebe: One 15 Dec at Jefferson County P *Jefferson* (TC), one 15 Dec *Jackson* (KJM), one 18 Dec at Montrose *Lee* (SJD), one 18 Dec at Syracuse WA *Clinton* (KJM), and one 3 Jan *Clayton* (KJM).

Loggerhead Shrike: Only one report: one 3 Dec at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* (AMJ).

Northern Shrike: There were 53 reports of 59 individuals this winter with all of them scattered over the northern two-thirds of the state.

Horned Lark: There were 253 reports with highs of 200 on 12 Feb *Boone* (DCH) and 300 on 14 Dec on Eagle Ave *Carroll* (DSc).

Tufted Titmouse: There were 151 reports with highs of 23 on 23 Dec *Muscatine* (KJM) and 21 on 4 Jan *Clayton* (KJM).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: There were 90 reports of this species from throughout the state. Highs: 45 on 18 Dec *Clinton* (KJM) and 8 on 20 Dec at Yellow River State Forest *Allamakee* (PDBS).

Red-breasted Nuthatch, Iowa City, Johnson, *9 Feb 2018. Photograph by Jim Scheib, Iowa City, IA.*

Brown Creeper: There were 182 reports with 342 individuals included. The highest numbers were 17 on 17 Dec at Quad Cities *Scott* (KJM) and 18 on 18 Dec *Clinton* (KJM). The westernmost records were one 9 Dec at Inwood *Lyon* (CA), 2 on 3 Dec at Bacon Creek P *Woodbury* (RR), and 2 on 18 Dec at La Hacienda *Pottawattamie* (CWe).

Winter Wren: There were 23 reports from throughout the period with high counts of 4 on 15 Dec *Jackson* (KJM).

Marsh Wren: All: one 16 Dec at Riverton WA *Fremont* (RS), one 18 Dec at Luton WA *Woodbury* (TJL, ph), and one 18 Dec at Montrose *Lee* (SJD).

Carolina Wren: There were 97 reports this season with a total of 147 individuals. Most reports were

of one or 2 individuals, mostly from the southern and eastern parts of the state, with high counts of 4 on 15 Dec *Jackson* (KJM), 4 on 16 Dec at Mines of Spain *Dubuque* (TM), and 7 on 17 Dec at Quad Cities *Scott* (KJM).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: Twenty-nine reports this season, most of just 1–3 individuals. High counts were 5 on 15 Dec *Jackson* (KJM), 8 on 16 Dec *Linn* (KJM), and 4 on 4 Jan *Clayton* (KJM).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Two reports this year of one 18 Dec at Syracuse WA *Clinton* (KJM), and one 19 Dec *Jackson* (EB).

Eastern Bluebird: There were 253 reports this year with high counts of 42 on 15 Dec *Jackson* (KJM), 37 on 17 Dec at Camp Dodge *Polk* (JG), and 42 on 3 Feb at Sutherland *O'Brien* (JJu).

MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD: One record of 1–2 individuals 1 Jan–16 Feb at Waterman Creek *O'Brien* (*JG, *POR, LAS).

Townsend's Solitaire: All: one 19 Dec at Swan Lake SP *Carroll* (DSc), 1–3 on 19–22 Dec at Preparation Canyon *Monona* (JMa), one 4–7 Jan on Laser Rd *Clayton* (BC), and one 3–15 Feb at Waterman Creek *O'Brien* (LAS, RLC).

Hermit Thrush: Seventeen reports: Highest 8 on 15 Dec *Jackson* (KJM), 2 on 16 Dec *Linn* (KJM), and 3 on 18 Dec *Clinton* (KJM).

American Robin: Numbers were very good this winter with high counts of 429 on 8 Dec at Big Sand Mound Nature Preserve *Louisa* (KJM), 345 on 17 Feb at Lake Anita SP *Cass* (DH), and 800 on 24 Feb at Green Valley SP *Union* (JG).

Gray Catbird: One report: one 12 Dec at Squaw Creek, Ames *Story* (AN).

Brown Thrasher: Three reports: one 27 Jan in rural *Story* (EO), one 16 Feb at Waterman Creek *Clay* (SP), and one 17–19 Feb in rural *Story* (CHi).

Northern Mockingbird: All: one 8 Dec at Big Sand Mound Nature Preserve *Louisa* (KJM), one 10 Dec *Appanoose* (TNJ), one 26 Dec *Taylor* (CLa), and one 25 Jan at Eldon *Wapello* (JGC).

Bohemian Waxwing: Only one report of 2 on 3 Feb at Whiterock Conservancy *Guthrie* (IBM) with good details.

Cedar Waxwing: High counts were 180 on 8 Dec at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (BC), 318 on 15 Dec *Jackson* (KJM), 160 on 4 Jan *Clayton* (BC), and 152 on 17 Dec at Camp Dodge *Polk* (JG).

Eurasian Tree Sparrow: Widely reported along the Mississippi R where high counts included 92 on 17 Dec at Quad Cities *Scott* (KJM), 103 on 23 Dec *Muscatine* (KJM). Reports away from the Mississippi R include 40 on 22 Dec *Buchanan* (KJM) and one 17 Dec west of Chichaqua Bottoms *Polk* (AB).

EVENING GROSBEAK: One ad male was coming to a feeder adjacent to Emma McCarthy Lee P in Ames *Story* (Bob Sperry *fide* *SJD, *Linda Coady of Chicago, IL).

House Finch: There were 311 reports during the period. High counts were 84 on 17 Dec at Quad Cities *Scott* (KJM), 97 on 23 Dec *Muscatine*

(KJM), 87 on 3 Jan *Clayton* (KJM), and 133 on 18 Jan at Cedar Rapids *Linn* (OS).

Purple Finch: There were a total of 116 reports. High counts were 50 on 15 Dec *Jackson* (KJM), 30 on 19 Dec *Clinton* (KJM), 30 on 4 Jan on Knob Rd *Clayton* (DAk), and 30 on 3 Feb on Woodland Springs Rd *Bremer* (KCR).

Common Redpoll: There were 57 reports this year after one report last winter. Highest numbers 130 on 16 Dec at Red Feather Prairie *Polk* (AB), 45 on 21 Dec at Akron *Plymouth* (POR), and 43 on 13 Jan *Clay* (LAS).

HOARY REDPOLL: An amazing five reports this season: 1–2 on 11 Jan–18 Feb *Dickinson* (*ET), one 13 Jan *Clay* (*LAS), 4 on 29 Jan near Ledyard *Kossuth* (*DG), 2 on 17 Feb at Spirit L *Dickinson* (LAS), and one 21 Feb *Warren* (JG).

Red Crossbill: There were 17 reports this winter after one report from last winter: 22 on 18 Dec at Le Mars *Plymouth* (JH), 6 on 20 Dec at Glendale Cemetery *Polk* (AB), 7 on 5 Jan at Graceland Park Cemetery *Woodbury* (GLV), and 13 on 11–17 Feb at East Lawn Cemetery *O'Brien* (LAS).

White-winged Crossbill: There were four reports of this species this year after one report from last year: All: one 12 Dec–19 Feb at Breda *Carroll* (DSc), one 26 Dec–13 Jan at feeders at Jay Gilliam residence *Warren* (JG), 1–2 on 25–27 Jan at Scott County P *Scott* (JF), and one 11–19 Feb at East Lawn Cemetery in Sheldon *O'Brien* (LAS).

Pine Siskin: There were 97 reports this season after nine reports last year. High counts: 32 on 1 Dec at Fairmont Cemetery *Scott* (SF), 50 on 11 Dec at Forney Lake WA *Fremont* (SQ), 35 on 17 Dec at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (JP), 40 on 5 Jan at Graceland Park Cemetery *Woodbury* (GLV), and 60 on 18 Jan at Cedar Rapids *Linn* (JE).

American Goldfinch: High counts: 85 on 19 Dec Hitchcock Nature Area *Pottawattamie* (MC), 67 on 18 Jan at Cedar Rapids *Linn* (MK), and 128 on 11 Feb *Pottawattamie* (DD).

Lapland Longspur: There were 131 reports with high counts of 500 on 17 Dec *Ida* (GLV), 500 on 17 Dec at Crawford RA *Ida* (POR), 2000 on 17 Dec *Ida* (GLV), 600 on 28 Dec *Boone* (JG), and 450 on 6 Jan at Waterman Creek *O'Brien* (POR).

Snow Bunting: Only 20 reports. The largest numbers were 42 on 22 Dec *Kossuth* (DG) and 12 on 3 Dec *Polk* (AB).

American Tree Sparrow: High counts: 216 on 14 Dec at Bays Branch WA *Guthrie* (RLC), 427 on 3 Jan *Clayton* (KJM), 253 on 13 Jan at Green Island WA *Jackson* (TM), and 205 on 14 Feb at Chichaqua Bottoms *Polk* (RLC).

Chipping Sparrow: Two reports: one 21 Dec at Liscomb *Marshall* (MP) and one 24 Jan at Dubuque *Dubuque* (KJA).

Field Sparrow: Only one report of 3 on 15 Dec *Jackson* (*KJM).

Savannah Sparrow: Only one report of one 1 Dec *Des Moines* (JLF).

Fox Sparrow: Twenty-four re-

ports for this species. High counts 3 on 17 Dec at Brenton Sl *Dallas* (JB), 2 on 17 Dec at Saylorville Res *Dallas* (JB), and 5 on 4 Jan *Clayton* (DAk).

Song Sparrow: There were 118 reports, mostly from the eastern and central parts of the state. High counts were 14 on 16 Dec at Riverton WA *Fremont* (RS), 43 on 17 Dec at Quad Cities *Scott* (KJM), 14 on 23 Dec *Muscatine* (KJM), 15 on 4 Jan at ISU Research Center *Story* (AN), and 16 on 28 Feb at Sycamore Bottoms *Johnson* (AM).

Lincoln's Sparrow: Only one report of one 16 Dec at Rathbun L *Appanoose* (RLC).

Swamp Sparrow: There were 26 reports with a high count of 6 on 27 Dec *Linn* (KJM).

White-throated Sparrow: There were 132 reports this winter. High counts were 28 on 16 Dec *Linn* (KJM) and 40 on 18 Dec *Clinton* (KJM).

American Tree Sparrow, Woodbury, *16 Dec 2017. Photograph by Paul Roisen, Sioux City, IA.*

Harris's Sparrow: There were 27 reports with high counts of 7 on 13 Dec at L Manawa *Pottawattamie* (DD), 7 on 1 Jan at Breda *Carroll* (DSc), and 5 on 6 Feb at Iowa Bottoms, Nebraska City *Fremont* (JGi).

White-crowned Sparrow (immature), Woodbury, *16 Dec 2017. Photograph by Paul Roisen, Sioux City, IA.*

White-crowned Sparrow: There were 45 reports with high counts of 28 on 17 Dec at Coralville L *Johnson* (SS) and 28 on 23 Dec *Muscatine* (KJM).

Dark-eyed Junco: Oregon race individuals included 4 on 17 Dec at Coralville Res *Johnson* (SS) and one 16 Jan at George Wyth SP *Black Hawk* (DE). High numbers reported were 423 on 3 Dec *Clayton* (KJM) and 579 on 4 Jan *Clayton* (KJM).

Eastern Meadowlark: There were eight reports this winter with vocalizations. Heard singing were one 12 Dec *Clinton* (*KJM), one 27 Jan at Whiterock Conservancy *Guthrie* (IBM), one 26 Feb at Eastern Iowa Airport *Linn* (BC), 4 on 27 Feb at Rathbun L *Appanoose* (VR), one 28

Feb *Henry* (JG), one 28 Feb at Cone Marsh *Louisa* (LGR), one 28 Feb at Red Rock Res *Marion* (JG), and 2 on 28 Feb *Washington* (FB).

Western Meadowlark: There were eight reports this winter noting vocalizations: 3 on 4 Dec at Missouri Valley *Harrison* (POR), one 17 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB), 8 on 26 Dec at Winterset *Madison* (POR), one 4 Jan at Beloit *Lyon* (CA), 10 on 9 Jan *Story* (EO), one 25 Jan at Mercer Grove *Pocahontas* (ZM), 2 on 22 Feb near Slater *Polk* (DAk), and 2 on 26 Feb at Eastern Iowa Airport *Linn* (BC).

Red-winged Blackbird: High counts were 3500 on 18 Jan *Warren* (AMJ) and 7000 on 28 Feb at Dunbar Sl *Greene* (MW).

Brown-headed Cowbird: High count: 2500 on 13 Dec *Muscatine* (DG).

Rusty Blackbird: There were a total of 15 reports of 72 individuals from 11 counties. High counts: 20 on 21 Jan at Bronson *Woodbury* (TJL), 17 on 4 Jan near Lacona *Marion* (JG), and 5 on 14 Jan *Boone* (EO).

Brewer's Blackbird: Only one report of 4 on 4 Jan at Lacona *Marion* (JG).

Common Grackle: There were 57 reports with a high of 320 on 28 Feb at Waterloo/Cedar Falls *Black Hawk* (CL).

Great-tailed Grackle: All: one 17 Dec near Slater, seen in both *Polk & Story* (SJD) and one 10 Jan at Water Works P *Polk* (KP).

Palm Warbler: One report of one of the eastern race 18 Dec 3 miles east of Toronto *Clinton* (*KJM).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: There were 51 reports this season with high counts of 42 on 8 Dec at Big Sand Mound Nature Preserve *Scott* (KJM), 26 on 15 Dec *Jackson* (KJM), and 21 on 16 Dec at Rathbun L *Appanoose* (RLC); all other reports were of 1–15 individuals from all parts of the state.

Dickcissel: One 16 Dec at North Bottoms *Des Moines* (*JLF).

CONTRIBUTORS

Danny Akers	DAk	Ames	Mark Brown	MHB	North Liberty
Chris Anderson	CA	eBird Observer	Iza Bruen-Morningstar	IBM	eBird Observer
Kristin & John Anderson-Bricker	KJA	eBird Observer	Adrian Burke	ABu	eBird Observer
Kristy Baker	KB	eBird Observer	Brandon Caswell	BC	Marion
John Bissell	JB	Grimes	J G Chapman	JGC	eBird Observer
Brian Blevins	BLB	Davenport	Mary Clausen	MC	eBird Observer
Fawn Bowden	FB	Riverside	Jeremy Cochran	JCo	eBird Observer
Aaron Brees	AB	Polk City	Jan Collins	JC	eBird Observer
Ethan Brown	EB	eBird Observer	Therese Commiskey	TC	eBird Observer
			Raymond Cummins	RLC	Ankeny

Dominique DaCaprona	DD	eBird Observer
Lindsey Day	LD	eBird Observer
Stephen J Dinsmore	SJD	Ames
Seth Dudley	SD	eBird Observer
David Eastman	DE	Cedar Falls
Chris Edwards	CRE	Solon
Jesse Ellis	JE	eBird Observer
Bery Engebretsen	BE	Urbandale
Nate Epperson	NE	eBird Observer
James Forde	JF	Cedar Rapids
Sylvia Fredericks	SFr	Fairfield
Steven Freed	SF	Milan, IL
Jim Fuller	JLF	Iowa City
Jerry Gieseking	JGi	eBird Observer
Jay Gilliam	JG	Norwalk
David Griffin	DG	Muscatine
Ethan Gyllenhaal	EG	eBird Observer
Caleb Hansen	CH	eBird Observer
Tyler Harms	TMH	Ames
Doug Harr	DCH	Ogden
Riley Henry	RH	Waterloo
Cindy Hildebrand	CHi	Ames
Justin Hill	JH	eBird Observer
Derek Hotchkin	DH	eBird Observer
Ann Johnson	AMJ	Norwalk
Jay Johnson	JJ	eBird Observer
Thomas Johnson	TNJ	Centerville
Joe Jungers	JJu	Hospers
Mariel Kean	MK	eBird Observer
Patrick Keenan	PK	Mason City
Kip Ladage	KL	Tripoli
Connor Langan	CL	Waterloo
Corey Lange	CLa	eBird Observer
Tucker Lutter	TJL	eBird Observer
Joe Manning	JMa	eBird Observer
James McCoy	JM	Iowa City
Kelly McKay	KJM	Hampton, IL
Andrew Meiborg	AM	eBird Observer
Zachary Mercer	ZM	eBird Observer
Tony Moline	TM	Dubuque
Eric Moody	EM	eBird Observer
Tom Moon	TMo	Waterloo
Francis Moore	FLM	Waterloo
Anna Nesterovich	AN	eBird Observer
Jacob Newton	JN	Ottosen
Susan Nixon	SN	eBird Observer
Wolfgang Oesterreich	WO	Ames
Eric Ollie	EO	Ames
Cindy Owsley	CO	eBird Observer
Jason Paulios	JP	eBird Observer
Skip Perkins	SP	Spirit Lake
Diane Porter	DCP	Fairfield
Mark Proescholdt	MP	Liscomb
Kay Pudil	KP	Des Moines
Linda Quinn	LQ	Iowa City
Susan Quinn	SQ	eBird Observer
Kris & Craig Rash	KCR	Denver
Dan Ray	DRa	eBird Observer
Billy Reiter-Marolf	BRM	New Albin
Vollie Rifner	VR	eBird Observer
Paul Roisen	POR	Sioux City
Deb Rolfes	DR	eBird Observer
Mark Rolfes	MR	Solon
Linda Rudolf	LGR	CoralvilleRex
Rundquist	RR	Sioux City
Jordan Satler	JS	eBird Observer
Richard Sayles	RSa	Blue Grass
Lee Schoenewe	LAS	Spencer
Olivia Sheff	OS	eBird Observer
Dean Shettler	DSc	eBird Observer
Ross Silcock	RS	Tabor
Dam Simpson	DS	eBird Observer
Paul Skrade	PDBS	Decorah
Sharon Somers	SS	North Liberty
Andy Spellman	AS	eBird Observer
Tommy Stone	TGS	Waterloo
Ed Thelen	ET	Spirit Lake
Dennis Thompson	DTh	Johnston
R J Thompson	RJT	eBird Observer
Bill Tollefson	BT	Cedar Rapids
Marilyn Vincent	MV	eBird Observer
Karen Viste-Sparkman	KVS	Des Moines
Gerald Von Ehwegen	GLV	Sioux City
Cory Walsh	CW	eBird Observer
Bob Walton	BW	Dubuque
Corey Welsh	CWe	eBird Observer
Matt Wetrich	MW	eBird Observer
Warren Wicks	WW	eBird Observer

336 Fairfield St, Waterloo, IA 50703-1628 (flmoore@forbin.net)

Iowa Ornithologists' Union Budget Meeting

4 March 2018

The Iowa Ornithologists' Union (I.O.U.) budget meeting was held by teleconference. President Francis Moore called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Others attending were vice president Pip Fisher, secretary Rex Rundquist, treasurer Mary Beth Hunt, and directors at large Eric Ollie, Diane Dentlinger, Candice Havely, and Kevin Murphy. Attending as guests were John Cecil, Hank Zaletel, and Doug Hunt.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

I.O.U. Meetings: Pip Fisher reported that the fall meeting in Dubuque was a success. Expenses were reported at $3700 and income at $981. This income, however, does not yet include the payments received through PayPal which are yet to be accounted. The 2018 spring meeting will be in Sioux City, sponsored by Briar Cliff University. Planning for the meeting is moving forward. Lodging will be available in dormitory rooms at the university. Planned featured speaker for the Saturday banquet is Laura Erickson from Duluth. The 2018 fall meeting site is yet to be determined. There are some plans underway to have the 2019 spring meeting at Lacey-Keosauqua State Park sponsored by the Iowa City Bird Club. It was suggested that an appeal for ideas for the 2018 fall meeting location be sent out to the general membership. Pip mentioned that there had been discussion about donating a free I.O.U. membership to Dr. Brian Hazlett and Dr. Dave Hoferer, Professors at Briar Cliff University who have been instrumental in helping secure access to the school's facilities for this spring's meeting. Such a motion had been posted on the I.O.U. website for voting, with only 3–4 board members responding thus far. A motion was brought to the floor by Mary Beth Hunt to grant a year's free I.O.U. membership to Brian Hazlett and Dave Hoferer. This motion was seconded by Pip Fisher. Diane Dentlinger asked if such an offer was within the scope of the bylaws. Francis Moore felt there had been precedent for such action. There was call for the question and the motion passed.

Pip Fisher explained that he did not feel comfortable handling the mailed-in payments for meeting registrations. It was decided that such payments could go directly to the treasurer with the understanding that close communication would be needed to coordinate payment verification, meal planning, etc. for the meetings.

Events Committee: It was reported that through online voting we have added a new member to the events committee, Charles Wittman.

Funding Requests: Francis Moore presented a list of funding requests for the 2018 budget. He explained that these were basically the same figures from last year. There were no suggestions for changes from the members present. The list is as follows: Records Committee ($125), Publications Committee ($12,000), Library/Historical Committee ($25), Membership Committee ($300),

Membership Coordinator ($400), and Projects Committee ($5000).

NEW BUSINESS:

Copies of I.O.U. financial balance sheets for the years 2017 were provided. Discussion ensued and adjustments in income and expenses were made in developing a proposed budget for 2018. Revenues are budgeted at $14,750 and expenses at $28,975, leaving a deficit of $14,225. A large portion of this deficit ($10,000) is the money set aside for completion of the Breeding Bird Atlas. It was felt that the remainder of the deficit could be covered by eligible monies in the Memorial Fund and anything remaining by monies from the General Fund. A motion to approve the 2018 Budget was made by Pip Fisher. Kevin Murphy seconded. Motion carried. The board of directors meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Rex W. Rundquist
Secretary, Iowa Ornithologists' Union

Great Black-backed Gull, Red Rock Dam, Marion, *14 Dec 2017. Photograph by James Forde, Cedar Rapids, IA.*

Iowa Ornithologists' Union Business Meeting

19 May 2018

The Iowa Ornithologists' Union (I.O.U.) spring business meeting was held at Briar Cliff University in Sioux City, Iowa. President Francis Moore called the meeting to order at 4:04 P.M. In attendance were vice president Pip Fisher; secretary Rex Rundquist; treasurer Mary Beth Hunt; directors at large Diane Dentlinger, Candace Havely, Eric Ollie, and Kevin Murphy; and members of the organization. Tyler Harms could not be present.

Secretary's Report: The minutes from the November 2017 Board of Directors and Business meetings have been approved by the board and published on the I.O.U. website. There was no further discussion of the minutes.

Treasurer's Report: Mary Beth Hunt explained that through April 2018 we have had $14,549 of income and $3902 of expenses, yielding a net income of $10,647. The increased amount of income is largely explained by the spring meeting fees now going directly to the treasurer.

Membership Coordinator's Report: Cecille Thompson reported that we have 23 new members and 88 nonrenewals. Despite this, we are currently at 387 members, which is near our average (but down compared to the past two years). Matt Stephenson has completed his term on the committee and is thanked for his service.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Projects Committee: Joe Jungers reported the committee had completed an email conference on 22 April 2018. He explained that fourteen grant requests were received. Of the $5000 budgeted for grants, ten requests were funded in the total amount of $4995. John Cecil (not present), having served his term, will be leaving this committee and is thanked for his service.

Publications Committee: Ann Johnson reported that Stephen J. Dinsmore, as past editor of *Iowa Bird Life*, will no longer be on the Publications Committee and is thanked for the time he spent as editor of the journal. Kay Niyo, former *IBL* editor (now in Colorado) has agreed to serve on this committee again and was approved by the Board. Karen Viste-Sparkman is now a member after assuming editorship of *IBL*. Karen explained her adjustment to this new role and requested articles for the journal. Some extended discussion ensued. Some ideas for articles included the following: reports on significant birding areas in the state; biographical sketches of Iowa birders; interesting bird behaviors and observations; project reports; bird photos.

Records Committee: Paul Hertzel presented the committee's activities at the spring 2018 board meeting earlier. Doug Harr has replaced Jay Gilliam who has finished his term on the committee and is thanked for his service.

Membership Committee: Doug Harr reported that I.O.U. logo apparel is now purchasable through Corporate Casuals. Members can order the items and sizes desired and simply request that the I.O.U. logo be included. New field cards (checklists) are now available. A small inventory of apparel items is still for sale.

Library/Historical Committee: Hank Zaletel reported the donation of birding records of Pete Wickham of Cedar Rapids, who is in failing health. These records are yet to be reviewed for appropriateness for I.O.U. archives. Hank is completing his current term on the committee but has been approved for another term.

Events Committee: Dennis Thompson reported that, despite snowy weather, the March Saylorville outing proceeded successfully, as did the April trip to Shimek State Forest. A trip to Trumble Lake in Palo Alto County is being planned for June 2018.

Communications Committee: Francis Moore explained that bylaws for the Communications Committee were approved by the Board earlier today. Ann Johnson requested that people contribute and help with ideas. Ongoing areas of communication include the listserv, "The Bobolink" (email newsletter), and the Facebook page. Rick Hollis, Linda Rudolph, and Matt Wetrich have been approved as members on this committee.

Meetings: Vice president Pip Fisher reported that the fall 2018 meeting will be in Ventura, Iowa, near Clear Lake 28–30 September 2018. Featured speaker planned is Noah Strycker, of 2015 Worldwide Big Year fame. Planning is also underway for the 2019 spring meeting 3–5 May 2019, organized by Iowa City Bird Club, at Lacey-Keosauqua State Park. The planned featured speaker for that event is Nathan Pieplow, author of the *Peterson Field Guide to Bird Sounds of Eastern North America*.

NEW BUSINESS:

Doug Harr announced the Nominating Committee's slate for new board members as follows: secretary – Sharon Bauer; treasurer – Mary Beth Hunt; directors at large – Eric Ollie (2nd term) of Ames, Curt Nelson of Mason City, and Denny Thompson of Johnston. There were no new nominations from the floor for any of these positions. Lee Schoenewe moved approval of Sharon Bauer as secretary; Jamie McCoy seconded. Motion carried. Tom Johnson moved approval of Mary Beth Hunt as treasurer; Stuart Sparkman seconded. Motion carried. Lee Schoenewe moved approval of

Eric Ollie, Curt Nelson, and Denny Thompson as directors at large; Hank Zaletel seconded. Motion carried. Candace Havely and Rex Rundquist were thanked for their service on the Board.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Kevin Murphy has volunteered to head an ad hoc Financial Audit Committee for I.O.U.. Another member is sought to assist him in this effort.

Kevin Murphy is handling the silent auction for this meeting (John Cecil is unable to attend). The silent auction will be resumed at the spring 2019 meeting. Members are encouraged to bid on items.

Thanks were given to Dave Hoferer who was instrumental in gaining access to Briar Cliff University facilities for this spring meeting. Paul Roisen and members of Loess Hills Audubon Society were also thanked for their efforts in organizing this event.

Hank Zaletel moved for adjournment; Jamie McCoy seconded. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 4:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rex W. Rundquist
Secretary,
Iowa Ornithologists' Union

Iowa Ornithologists' Union Board of Directors Meeting

19 May 2018

The Iowa Ornithologists' Union (I.O.U.) spring board meeting was held at Briar Cliff University in Sioux City, Iowa. President Francis Moore called the meeting to order at 12:34 p.m. Attending were vice president Pip Fisher; secretary Rex Rundquist; treasurer Mary Beth Hunt; and directors at large Candace Havely, Eric Ollie, Kevin Murphy, and Diane Dentlinger. Attending as guests were Ann Johnson, Cecille Thompson, Paul Hertzel, and Hank Zaletel. Board member Tyler Harms was unable to be present.

REPORTS:

President's Report: Francis explained that through electronic voting via the website Doug Harr's appointment to the Records Committee was approved.

Secretary's Report: The minutes from the November 2017 Board of Directors meetings have been published on the I.O.U. website. The minutes have been reviewed and revised by the Board

and will be presented at the general meeting today for approval.

Treasurer's Report: Mary Beth Hunt explained the profit/loss and balance sheet reports current through the end of April 2018. Comparing balances from end of April 2018 ($10,647) with end of April 2017 ($3823) shows our balance up about $6824; however, much of the jump in income is attributed to fees for the 2018 spring meeting going directly to the treasurer and deposited (see attachments). Expenses for the start of the year are within about $250 compared to this point last year. Estimated expenses for the 2018 spring meeting are estimated at $2000. Financial records for both 2016 and 2017 were brought to the meeting for our internal audit process. Mary Beth explained that there is a pending donation from a former I.O.U. member who died, a woman from North Liberty, who left 10% of her estate to the group (amount is currently unknown).

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None reported

NEW BUSINESS:

Vice President's Report: Pip Fisher reported that the 2017 Fall I.O.U. Meeting in Dubuque had costs of $3726 and income of $3357, yielding a net loss of $369. It was uncertain if all Dubuque fees had been paid. The 2018 fall meeting is scheduled to be in Ventura, Iowa, near Clear Lake 28–30 September 2018. The featured speaker will be Noah Strycker of 2015 Worldwide Big Year fame. Planning is also underway for the 2019 spring meeting 3–5 May 2019, organized by Iowa City Bird Club, at Lacey-Keosauqua State Park. The planned featured speaker for that event is Nathan Pieplow, author of the *Peterson Field Guide to Bird Sounds of Eastern North America*.

Projects Committee Report: Francis reported that John Cecil will be going off the committee, having completed his term. Joe Jungers will provide a committee report at the business meeting.

Membership Coordinator's Report: Cecille Thompson reported that we have 23 new members and 88 nonrenewals. Despite this, we are currently at 387 members, which is near our average (but down compared to the past two years). Matt Stephenson is finishing his 2-year term on the committee. It was suggested that two new committee members be added.

Publications Committee Report: Ann Johnson reported Karen Viste-Sparkman has accepted the editorship of *Iowa Bird Life* and, as such, is a member of the committee. Ann explained that there is currently some "restructuring" of the committee underway. Former IBL editor, Kay Niyo, who currently lives in Colorado, has agreed to serve on the committee. Candace Havely moved approval of Kay Niyo to the Publications Committee. Motion was seconded by Diane Dentlinger. Motion carried.

Library/Historical Committee Report: Hank Zaletel reported the donation of birding records of Pete Wickham, of Cedar Rapids, who is in failing health. These records are yet to be reviewed for appropriateness for I.O.U. archives. Hank is completing his current term on the committee. Candace Havely moved approval of Hank Zaletel for another term on the Library/Historical Committee. Motion was seconded by Mary Beth Hunt. Motion carried.

Records Committee Report: Paul Hertzel presented a report of the work by the Records Committee in 2017, and thus far in 2018. There were 43 records reviewed in 2017, all but 6 of which were approved. A "thank you" was expressed to Jay Gilliam who recently completed a six-year term on the committee. An annual fall committee meeting is planned.

Events Committee Report: Eric Ollie reported that, despite snowy weather, the March Saylorville outing proceeded successfully, as did the April trip to Shimek State Forest. Francis suggested that the committee be organized into staggered terms as with other committees.

Communications Committee Report: Francis requested approval of the bylaws of the Communications Committee as previously presented to the board in a recent email. Candace Havely made a motion to approve this document as presented. Motion was seconded by Pip Fisher. Motion carried. Pip Fisher then made a motion to approve both Rick Hollis and Linda Rudolph as members of the Communications Committee. This motion was seconded by Kevin Murphy. Motion carried. Finally, it was recommended that Matt Wetrich be added to this committee, as well. Diane Dentlinger made the motion to approve Matt Wetrich to the Communications Commit-

tee. This motion was seconded by Candace Havely. Motion carried.

Nominating Committee Report: Francis mentioned the slate of new officer candidates to be voted upon by the general membership at the Business Meeting. The committee slate includes the following: secretary – Sharon Bauer; treasurer – Mary Beth Hunt; directors at large – Eric Ollie (2nd term), Curt Nelson, and Denny Thompson.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:28 p.m.

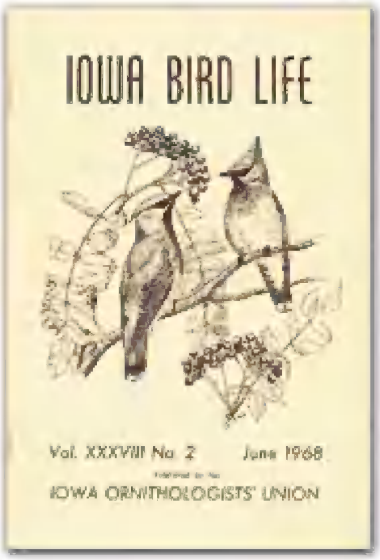
Respectfully submitted,
Rex W. Rundquist
Secretary, Iowa Ornithologists' Union

ADDENDUM: In online voting on 29 April 2018, Doug Harr was approved for a term on the Records Committee. (RWR 26 November 2018)

Yellow-rumped Warbler, Hawkeye WA, Johnson, *17 December 2017. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*

Fifty Years Ago in Iowa Bird Life

James J. Dinsmore



Half of the June 1968 issue of *Iowa Bird Life* consists of a second article on the waterfowl of the Davenport area by Thomas J. Morrissey, completing the series that was started in the December 1967 issue of *Iowa Bird Life* (IBL 37:75–97). The present article covers the diving ducks including the pochards, mergansers, and several others. As in the first article, there are short write-ups on eleven species which include information on dates of occurrence, where they were found, peak counts, and various notes on their biology and behavior. All of the species are illustrated with black and white drawings by E. W. Steffen. One photo shows a Hooded Merganser leaving a nest box, a rare nester in the area at that time and the only species of these eleven that nested there. Morrissey also said that the Bufflehead was rare in the area and didn't mention Greater Scaup at all. The latter supports the idea that the species then was at best very rare in Iowa, something that is not true now.

The report on the spring 1968 I.O.U. meeting at Ottumwa comprises most of the rest of the issue. One hundred people are listed as attending the meeting. As was the custom at that time, married women often had no first name other than Mrs. Times have changed! I recognized only four names of registrants who currently belong to the organization: Ann Moore, Mary Lou Petersen, and Bob and Phyllis Nickolson. A total of 120 species were found on the field trips, including only 13 species of shorebirds and 18 of warblers; all somewhat below totals for most recent meetings. Two pages of photos nicely illustrate many of the attendees. A letter from incoming President Robert Nickolson who continues a membership that started in 1949 ended the report.

The field reports, a note on a Long-eared Owl roost at Coralville Reservoir, and several book reports complete the issue.

646 Mallory Hill Drive, The Villages, FL 32162 (oldcoot@iasatate.edu)

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES (renewable yearly): Fledgling (students) $20 (electronic only), Institutional (domestic) $30, Institutional (foreign) $45, Goldfinch $25 (electronic only), Bluebird $35, Oriole $50, Egret $75, Osprey $100, Bald Eagle $250, and Peregrine Falcon $500+. Membership dues entitle members to receive Iowa Bird Life quarterly and to vote and hold office in the Union. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Join, give a gift, or manage your membership on-line at <www.iowabirds.org>. Paper forms for new members and renewals may be mailed to the treasurer. Back issues of Iowa Bird Life are available from Membership Coordinator Cecille Thompson 7503 Wildflower Ct, Johnson, IA 50131 (cecillethompson@gmail.com).

INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS: Original manuscripts, notes, letters (indicate if for publication), editorials, and other material relating to birds in Iowa should be sent by e-mail attachment in Microsoft Word to editor at vistesparrow@gmail.com. Research manuscripts should include abstract, introduction, study area, methods, results, discussion, and literature cited sections and will be sent for peer review. Accepted manuscripts will be published promptly depending on space available.

Photos and graphics: Submit only original, unsized, and unenhanced photos in your camera's JPEG (*.jpg) format. Photos must be 300 dpi at the size they will be printed (6-1/2" wide by 6-1/2" high for the cover and various smaller sizes inside), so setting your camera to its highest possible resolution is recommended. The editor will do any resizing and enhancing required because any previous adjustments to the photos may make them unusable. Submit photos and graphics as e-mail attachments. Photos and captions should be emailed to IBLPhotos@iowabirds.org.

Deadlines for submission are January 1 for winter issue (Vol. xx[1]), April 1 for spring issue [2], July 1 for summer issue [3],October 1 for fall issue [4]. Send seasonal field reports to field reports editors by deadlines listed on inside front cover.

I.O.U. WEB SITE: <www.iowabirds.org>, Ann Johnson, Webmaster

IOWA RBA: John Bissell (john.annabissell@gmail.com)

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT: Deadline for receipt of reports is 15 January. For forms and instructions, contact Christopher J. Caster, 1813 Liberty Lane, Coralville, IA 52241 (cjcaster@q.com).

BIRD SIGHTINGS: Subscribe at <www.iowabirds.org>

ADDRESS CHANGES: Update your on-line profile at <www.iowabirds.org> or send address and e-mail changes to Membership Coordinator Cecille Thompson, 7503 Wildflower Ct., Johnston, IA 50131 (cecillethompson@gmail.com).

UPCOMING MEETINGS OF THE I.O.U.:

FRONT COVER PHOTO: Pine Siskin, Iowa City, *Johnson*, 17 Feb 2018. Photograph by Jim Scheib, Iowa City, IA.

BACK COVER PHOTO: Gadwall, *O'Brien*, 7 Dec 2017. Photograph by Paul Roisen, Sioux City, IA.

LAYOUT: Douglas Chapman, Sioux Falls, SD
PRINTER: Larson Printing, Mason City, IA

CONTENTS

Iowa Christmas Bird Count, 2017-2018
by *Chris Caster* 45

Field Reports –Winter 2017-2018
by *Francis Moore* 59

Iowa Ornithologists' Union Budget Meeting
by *Rex W. Rundquist* 80

Iowa Ornithologists' Union Spring 2018 Business Meeting
by *Rex W. Rundquist* 82

Iowa Ornithologists' Union Spring 2018 Board Meeting
by *Rex W. Rundquist* 84

Fifty Years Ago in *Iowa Bird Life*
by *James J. Dinsmore* 88

IOWA BIRD LIFE

IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

Summer 2018 . Volume 88 . Number 3

IOWA BIRD LIFE

The Iowa Ornithologists' Union, founded in 1923, encourages interest in the identification, study, and protection of birds in Iowa and seeks to unite those who have these interests in common. *Iowa Bird Life* is a quarterly publication of the Union.

OFFICERS OF THE IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION (Dates indicate end of current term):
President: *Francis L. Moore* (2019), 336 Fairfield St, Waterloo, IA 50703-1628 (flmoore@forbin.net)
Vice President: *Pip Fisher* (2019), 14172 NW 130th Ave, Madrid, IA 50156 (pip@pipfish.com)
Secretary: *Sharon Bauer* (2020), 519 N 4th Ave, Winterset, IA 50273 (sbauer@mchsi.com)
Treasurer: *Mary Beth Hunt* (2020), 1201 High Avenue West, Oskaloosa, IA 52577 (mbh@mahaska.org)

DIRECTORS: *Diane Dentlinger* (2019), *Kevin Murphy* (2019), *Curt Nelson* (2020), *Dennis Thompson* (2020), *Eric Ollie* (2020).

JOURNAL STAFF:
Editor: *Karen Viste-Sparkman*, 3925 Hillcrest Drive, Des Moines, IA 50310 (vistesparrow@gmail.com)
Christmas Bird Count Editor: *Christopher J. Caster,* 1813 Liberty Lane, Coralville, IA 52241 (cjcaster@q.com)
Field Reports Editors (Enter seasonal data at <www.iowabirds.org>):
Winter (Dec, Jan, Feb; deadline 3 March): *Francis L. Moore*, 336 Fairfield Street, Waterloo, IA 50703 (flmoore@forbin.net)
Spring (Mar, Apr, May; deadline 3 June): *Connor Langan,* 4400 Hoff Road, Waterloo, IA 50701 (clangan16@gmail.com)
Summer (Jun, Jul; deadline 3 August): *Jim Dinsmore*, 646 Mallory Hill Drive, The Villages, FL 32162 (oldcoot@iastate.edu)
Fall (Aug, Sept, Oct, Nov; deadline 3 December): *Brandon Caswell*, 680 S 22nd St, Marion, IA 52302 (brandon.caswell83@gmail.com)

STANDING COMMITTEES AND CHAIRPERSONS:
Library/Historical: *Hank Zaletel* (2018), 1928 6th Street, Nevada, IA 50201 (madowl@midiowa.net); *Candace Havely* (2020)
Membership: *Cecille Thompson* Membership Coordinator (N/A); *Karen Disbrow* (2019); *Douglas Harr* (2019); *Eric Ollie* (2020); *Matt Stephenson* (2018)
Projects: *Billy Reiter-Marolf* (2019), 1674 Sunrise Ct, New Albin, IA 52160 (wreiterm@gmail.com); *Joe Jungers* (2020); *Coady Lundy* (2021); *Richard Sayles* (2022)
Publications: *Ann M. Johnson*, 5362 120th Avenue, Norwalk, IA 50211 (aj@hologrambirds.com); *John Bissell*; *Karen Viste-Sparkman; Kay Niyo* (2023)
Records: *Paul Hertzel* (Secretary, appointed by committee), 1432 E State St., Mason City, IA 50401 (phertzel@rconnect.com); *Ann Johnson* (2018); *William Scheible* (2019); *Karen Viste-Sparkman* (2020); *Paul Skrade* (2021); *Mark Brown* (2022); *Doug Harr* (2023)

Copyright 2018 Iowa Ornithologists' Union (ISSN 0021-0455), All rights reserved.

Territorial Behavior of a Burrowing Owl in Northwestern Humboldt County, Iowa in May 2018

Jacob Newton

On 15 May 2018 I received a Facebook message from a local farmer in Humboldt County who had observed a strange owl in his corn field. He had attached several photographs clearly showing a Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*). I quickly traveled to northwestern Humboldt County near the intersection of 130th St and Delaware Ave, and about one-fifth mile north of the intersection I found the small owl standing near what I presumed to be an unoccupied badger burrow (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Burrowing Owl, Humboldt, *25 May 2018. Photograph by Jacob Newton, Ottosen, IA.*

After initially finding the owl I quickly acquired some of my own photographic verification of the individual and reported the sighting to the Iowa Birds Listserv and Iowa Birds Facebook page. Later that evening I was joined by Jason Newton and we observed the owl, which was again standing near the burrow. Not long after that, Paul Roisen

observed the owl, as well as a fourth person, Justin Rogers, who took a widely distributed photograph. Jason and I continued birding and when I returned home I filed the field report and rare bird documentation to the I.O.U.

This Burrowing Owl record apparently represented a new checklist species for Humboldt County, but I would attribute this to lack of reporting rather than lack of presence. Historically Iowa has been on the eastern edges of the Burrowing Owl's breeding range, but the species has seen a precipitous decline since the 1940s across its limited range in western and northcentral Iowa (Kent and Dinsmore 1996). The counties surrounding this sighting, Palo Alto and Kossuth, have nesting records for this species and it likely also nested regularly in Humboldt County during that time period as well; presumably at comparable densities to similar northcentral Iowa counties.

In 1938 there were an estimated 27 Burrowing Owl families in Clay County. This estimate was based on three nesting families found in a survey that covered one-ninth of the county's area (Scott 1940). The species' easternmost recorded nesting in Iowa was in Cerro Gordo County in 1987 (Kent and Dinsmore 1996).

I returned to observe the owl briefly on 16 and 17 May. One surprise was the presence of an Iowa Public Television vehicle either taking video or photographs of the owl. From my notes the afternoon of the 17th was the first day that I heard the owl vocalize. The *cacooo, cacooo, cacooo* call of the bird suggested that the individual was a male. At no time while observing this bird did I find any evidence of a second individual, and at no point was there any observation suggesting reproduction was occurring at this site. Multiple people, however, contacted me interested in whether nesting was happening and the potential for any nest to be destroyed by agricultural; this included an employee of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) attempting to determine the nature of the owl's activities at the site. I believe the IDNR got involved due to the land managers' or local farmers' cooperative having concerns over the protections when it came to raptors, especially regarding the application of pesticides. I informed the IDNR that it was my belief that the owl was alone and not nesting, after which I had no

further contact with the IDNR on the matter.

After hearing the owl vocalize on the 17th, I decided to stay in Ottosen overnight and wake up early. I knew that, with the I.O.U. meeting in Sioux City beginning the following day, there could be a number of people visiting the owl location, and I wished to see the day pass with little inconvenience to the landowners as planting was well underway at the time. I arrived at the site a little before dawn on 18 May and spent

Figure 2. Primary burrow used by Burrowing Owl, Humboldt, *31 May 2018. Photograph by Jacob Newton, Ottosen, IA.*

nearly twelve hours, on and off, at the location. At dawn I found him standing near the burrow. On my arrival I could hear the owl vocalizing multiple times a minute for several minutes and I observed him doing the bowing display (Martin 1972). Later investigation of the site after the owl had left briefly on 29 May revealed that there were three burrows in the area that formed a triangle. The primary burrow (Figure 2) was an east facing burrow in the northeast corner of the triangle; the

secondary was a southern burrow; and a smaller, much less-used (at least as far as I could tell) tertiary burrow was in the northwest corner of the triangle. I observed several interesting behaviors including the owl retreating into the burrow for a few moments and then returning to the surface only to start intense preening of its feet and talons, clearly

Figure 3. Burrowing Owl looking up at the sky, Humboldt, *24 May 2018. Photograph by Jacob Newton, Ottosen, IA.*

removing large clods of soil from its talons. Burrowing Owl literature suggests this is evidence that the male was doing some burrow alterations, which usually includes minor excavation of the burrow (Martin 1972); however, I never observed any evidence of the owl doing any

excavation near the entrance of the burrow.

As the day progressed the owl would fly to piles of mud or cow manure, pick up a piece, and fly back to the burrow carrying it in its beak to use for lining (Martin 1973). The use of mammalian dung has also been reported to potentially be a form of bait for dung beetles (Levey et al. 2004). All these observations suggested a male owl advertising or preparing for a mate and making ready a nesting burrow for a potential mate to inspect (Martin 1972).

During the day I noted what I would describe as "mildly neurotic" behavior. The owl would progress from calmly, almost sleepily, standing vigil at the opening of the primary burrow to almost frantic panic of staring up into the sky (Figure 3) or intensely watching slow moving trucks or tractors drive by. This would result in fevered leg pumping, hunkering down close to the ground, flying from the primary burrow location to one of the two ancillary burrows, or running into the primary burrow and disappearing for five to fifteen minutes only to reappear and resume his sentry position outside of the burrow. Some of this activity lessened as the day advanced and heat increased to the mid-80s, such that in the mid-afternoon he would at times spend fifteen to twenty-five minutes in the burrow, only very briefly sticking his head out or coming out to stand.

I also witnessed a single attempt at a fly-catching sally; however, I could not confirm if the owl was successful in capturing the insect, a common green darner (*Anax junius*). I also observed the owl fly to a secondary burrow and pick up something I could only identify as a thick, limp, rope-like object that it carried flying to the primary burrow and took inside. This may have been a piece of vegetation, but it was likely a prey item (potentially one of the garter snakes [*Thamnophis sp.*] or a northern red-bellied snake [*Storeria occipitomaculata*]).

Later during the observation period (after the weekend of 19 May), I was able to collect some pellets; however, they revealed nothing but shards of insect exoskeletons. A single unconsumed beetle was found outside of the primary burrow entrance, which is like findings in Clay County by Errington et al. (1935) who reported significant insect consumption by Burrowing Owls.

After the weekend of 19 May I made a point of visiting the burrow

about once or twice a week when I could manage a pass near the area. The owl seemed to become decreasingly charismatic as time passed. I would generally find him huddled near the burrow site, and I would observe him doing fewer of the "neurotic" behaviors I observed on 18 May. During at least one of these observations I heard him vocalizing; however, he seemed to spend more time underground as there were periods when he would disappear into the burrow for tens of minutes at a time.

The following weeks of 21 and 28 May were notably hot for late May with highs in the upper 90s the weekend of the 28th. My last observation of the owl was around noon on 30 May. The following day I did not observe the owl, nor was it observed the next two days. At a similar time as the owl's disappearance, a family of badgers emerged from a den site a half-mile north of the burrow location. This could be coincidental as there were other factors that could have resulted in him abandoning the location, such as the emergence of the corn at the site or the lack of response to his broadcasts and the dampening of his hormones, but we will never know the reason.

I want to acknowledge that the land managers did a great deal to accommodate the owl and observations of the bird (including granting me access to the burrow site). Their assistance included no-till planting the area around the burrow to preserve the burrows rather than destroy them.

LITERATURE CITED

Errington, P. L., and L. J. Bennett. 1935. Food habits of Burrowing Owls in northwest Iowa. *Wilson Bulletin* 47:125–128.

Kent, T. H., and J. J. Dinsmore. 1996. *Birds in Iowa.* Privately published, Iowa City and Ames.

Levey, D. J., D. R. Scot, and C. F. Levins. 2004. Use of dung as a tool by burrowing owls. *Nature* 431:39.

Martin, D. J. 1973. Selected aspects of Burrowing Owl ecology and behavior. *The Condor* 75:446–456.

Scott, T. G. 1940. The western Burrowing Owl in Clay County, Iowa in 1938. *American Midland Naturalist* 24:585–593.

207 Bryan Ave., PO Box 5, Ottosen, IA 50570-0005 (newtja84@gmail.com)

My Great Horned Owl Spring

Julie Johnston

It was Tuesday, 13 March 2018 and as I was driving to my country home from town, I saw a huge flock of geese flying northwest in the general direction of my home.

I had never seen so many geese flying in this vicinity prior to 2018. Two weeks previously, thousands had covered the land until it appeared that snow had fallen. I guess it had…in the form of Snow Geese! Seeing still more of them, I turned down the nearest gravel road to see if I could discover where they would rest for the night, and perhaps get a few more photographs of this phenomenon we call migration.

Of course, in open country it was easy to see them…way out in the middle of the section. There was no way to get close to them, so, while in an area where I had seen a good variety of birds before, I decided to investigate and see if there were any birds as it was getting close to sunset.

Creeping along the road with the windows open, I could hear the familiar *hoo hoodoo hoooo hoo* of a Great Horned Owl. I have known of their presence in my neighborhood for several years having heard and seen them within a couple miles of home, but had not seen, nor heard, them recently. Out came the binoculars. I pulled to the side of the road and began the search. Nothing was moving. Then, I heard it again.

And, then, an answer. Higher in pitch and sounding farther away, I decided it must be the female, answering the call of her mate. By now the sun was down and there was not enough light for a decent photograph. I was compelled to stay. They continued to 'talk' for about 10 minutes, then all was quiet. Still, I stayed.

As they were vocalizing, I could determine the direction of both of the owls and decided they must have a nest. I kept looking at a large cottonwood where it seemed her hoots originated but couldn't see anything that looked like an owl or a nest. Finally, movement! Binoculars up, I saw her head emerge from an unseen hole, followed by her whole body. She sat there for a bit, looking around, then silently flew across the open space to a row of trees, where she perched.

This was exciting! I then saw the male fly toward what I came to call the nest tree, where he landed. After a few moments he flew back across to where he had been and then they both flew toward the west.

This was day one of eight weeks of watching the owl pair, hoping that

they had young ones that would eventually leave the nest and I would get to see them, too.

Normally, I am not an early riser, but if you want to see owls in action you have to get up early, stay up late, or do both. Many days during that period from the middle of March until the end of May, I was at the scene 20–30 minutes before sunrise, staying for an hour or so. I would go back at the end of the day to be there an hour before sunset and stay until it was too dark to see.

Getting up at 3:30 or 4 a.m. to sit in my car with the camera and binoculars handy, just in case, probably sounds crazy to anyone except another birder/photographer. But every moment was well worth it.

At this point in my affair with the owls, I really didn't know too much about them. I sent off an email to an excellent bird photographer friend who has been a birder since childhood and is very knowledgeable about bird behavior. My first question to him was, "Will I disturb the birds by sitting and watching/photographing them?"

My email hardly had time to fly through the ether when I received his response. "DO NOT go near the nest! Stay in your car. You won't disturb them if you do that, but if you get out and they think you are a threat they will attack, and you will be in the hospital! They are fierce!"

Of course, there were two reasons to not approach the nest, only one concerning my safety. The other was because I didn't want to cause them any stress. To this day, I do not know whether I bothered them. They knew I was there. In the beginning they would stare at me as though trying to decide if I was a threat.

As time went on, they became accustomed to my car, and while they would look at me occasionally, for the most part they ignored me.

After a few days of watching them, it became apparent that they had a routine. Also, it was easy to tell the female from the male, even if I didn't see her leave the nest. I came to know which were their favorite perches. I could almost set a clock by her pattern of leaving the nest 10 minutes after sunset. Early on she only stayed away for 10 or 15 minutes before going back into the nest cavity. Later, the time extended, though she never was out of sight of the nest when there was enough light for me to see. As darkness deepened, she flew away, presumably to find food.

Some mornings he would hoot a lot, sometimes he was silent. Infrequently, she would answer him. I could never determine a pattern or a reason for their being vocal or silent.

Her morning routine was to enter the nest 20 minutes before sunrise, where she presumably stayed all day.

One morning I was a bit startled to see him arrive with food. He went into the nest cavity with a small mammal but did not stay long. Then, he left the nest with something in his talons. I still don't know if he took food to her, then left with garbage, or if he was just tempting her. At this point in time, I assumed there were young that he might be feeding also.

A few times I went and did not see either owl. If they don't move, and are not where you can see a silhouette, they are so well camouflaged that they are difficult to find.

After about 10 days of watching them, one morning as I was waiting, she flew out of the nest and across the meadow and to her favorite perch (Figure 1). He was further back in another tree, asleep. Suddenly, she was very alert, looking toward the nest tree. I glanced over and there was a squirrel attempting to enter the nest. At least it looked that way. Quick as lightning, she was

Figure 1. Female Great Horned Owl, Jefferson, *17 May 2018. Photograph by Julie Johnston, Packwood, IA.*

off the perch and flying, beak clacking, right toward the squirrel! I thought for sure he was going to be her breakfast. In she came, talons forward, beak still clacking (Figure 2)! Mr. Squirrel was no dummy and scrambled out of there intact. She checked out the nest, then flew back to her perch, keeping a watchful eye on everything.

Figure 2. Female Great Horned Owl attacking squirrel at nest, Jefferson, *4 May 2018. Photograph by Julie Johnston, Packwood, IA.*

That huge cottonwood tree was home to more than the owls too. I saw flickers go in and out of a hole way up in the tree, and a pair of Red-headed Woodpeckers in another hole. The squirrels lived in yet another hole. One morning I spied a raccoon peering out of a larger hole in that same tree, though I don't think that was his home.

After about five weeks, I had the sense that something was different. The male began to hoot and kept at it for 20 minutes. I had never heard him so vocal. Both birds flew from perch to perch, and back to the nest several times. Is something about to happen? Will the young emerge from the safety of the nest? Are they encouraging them to come out?

Nothing. No young ones. Disappointing.

It was 12 more days of waiting and watching before the little one stuck his fuzzy head out of the nest cavity. AT LAST!

The next two weeks were so exciting. There was only one owlet (Figure 3), and the parents were very attentive. I watched her bring in food and feed the little one. Their interaction with each other was amazing.

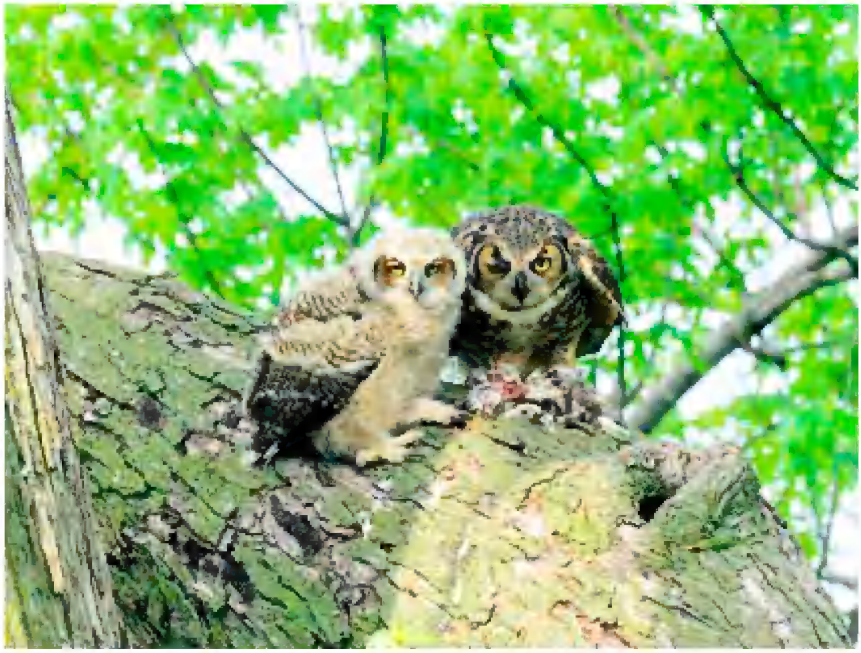


Figure 3. Great Horned Owls, female and young, Jefferson, *14 May 2018. Photograph by Julie Johnston, Packwood, IA.*

After two weeks of observing the family, during which time the young one spent more time out of the nest, I left to attend the I.O.U. meeting in Sioux City. From there I drove to Wyoming. When I returned to the nest site eight days later there were no owls visible. For four days I returned every day and never saw them again.

After weeks and weeks of observing the pair, then the three of them, suddenly there was a void. I had become quite attached to them and feared something terrible had happened. To this day, I don't know why they disappeared.

I had certainly enjoyed watching them and learned a lot in the process. Though many questions remain concerning what became of them, I had faith that all would be well.

1342 Ironwood Avenue, Packwood, IA 52580 (jg441157j5x@iowatelecom.net)

Field Reports—Spring 2018

Tyler M. Harms

WEATHER

The spring season is typically one of dynamic weather conditions across the state and this spring was no exception. Early spring was cooler and wetter than normal with the average March temperature and rainfall 1°F below normal and 2.3 inches above normal, respectively. On the same day in the eastern portion of the state, a high of 62°F was recorded in Bellevue and a low of 3°F in Stanley. Temperatures never reached above 70°F anywhere in the state, which is a bit surprising given conditions experienced in the past few springs. In addition to above-average rainfall, the state recorded an average of 7.0 inches of snowfall, which is just more than 2 inches above normal for March. Much of the state received above average rainfall in the second week of March followed by a large winter storm system on 23–24 Mar that dumped 10–14 inches from Mason City to Waterloo. Northwestern Iowa did not miss many of these precipitation events, having received 150–175% of normal precipitation in March.

Cold temperatures continued as the state experienced the coldest April over the entire 146–year observational record. Temperatures in April averaged only 39°F, which is 10°F below normal for the month. Temperatures in the northern half of the state were 10–22°F below normal from 9–22 Apr with Waukon recording –3°F on 7 Apr, the lowest recorded temperature for the month. A recording of 85°F in Sidney on 14 Apr started a gradual warming trend with much of the southern half of the state experiencing above average temperatures for the last week of the month. April was also the 13th driest on record with total precipitation ranging from 1.5–2.0 inches below normal. Similar to March, northwestern Iowa again recorded high amounts of precipitation relative to the remainder of the state with a whopping 20 inches of snow recorded in Spirit Lake after a major winter storm in the second week of the month. From 19 to 22 Apr, Forest City recorded a total snowfall of 22 inches. Despite the abundance of precipitation in the first half of the month, April closed very dry with an average of 0.05–0.1 inches recorded in the western third of the state.

As if making up for lost time, Mother Nature cranked up the heat in May. The average temperature was 66.9°F statewide, nearly 7°F above normal, making it the 3rd warmest May on record. Temperatures statewide were consistently above

normal throughout most of the month, with the monthly high of 102°F recorded in Pocahontas on 28 May. Much of the state received above normal precipitation from a series of storms in the first week of May with some parts receiving nearly twice normal amounts. Precipitation leveled off for the remainder of the month, however, and May closed with a statewide average of 4.7 inches of precipitation, just 0.11 inches below normal.

Interestingly enough, despite record cold in April, record warmth in May, and significant precipitation events throughout the season, this spring finished as the 52nd warmest and 51st driest on record.

HABITAT, GENERAL TRENDS

Below normal temperatures in March and April resulted in record late ice melt in northern Iowa and in our neighboring states to the north. Ice left the Iowa Great Lakes on 29 Apr, breaking a 67-year record. Ice melted on many Minnesota lakes from 29 Apr to 5 May, 4–6 weeks later than the previous two springs. Similarly, ice out dates on larger lakes in North Dakota were among the latest on record. Waiting for open water, many migrating waterfowl stalled in central Iowa south of the ice line along U.S. Highway 20. Most notable were the large concentrations of light geese on waterbodies across the state with many lingering well into May. KCCI, a news service in Des Moines, featured the light goose migration at Saylorville Res and DeSoto NWR. A total of 71 reports of Snow Geese came in May with counts of up to 200 still being reported.

Above average precipitation in northwestern and northcentral portions of the state throughout much of spring produced fantastic wetland conditions for breeding waterbirds in the Iowa Prairie Pothole Region. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, as part of their annual Waterfowl Breeding Population and Production (i.e., Four-Square-Mile) Survey in May, reported a spike in the number of breeding Mallards and Blue-winged Teal in the northern two tiers of counties in the Iowa Prairie Pothole Region. Many other migratory waterfowl took advantage of these conditions in northwestern Iowa, lingering into late May. Additionally, nearly all the May reports of Red-necked, Eared, and Western grebes were concentrated north and west of *Polk*, which is not surprising for these species but does suggest ideal habitat conditions were present.

Although below average temperatures made for an interesting waterfowl migration this spring, migration of many other species was rather lackluster. Record early dates were reported for only 15 species, which is fewer than half the number of species for which record early dates were reported for the previous two years. Oddly, three species of flycatchers (Eastern Wood-pewee, Acadian Flycatcher, and Willow Flycatcher) were reported within the range of record early dates as well as 5 other insectivores (Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Bell's Vireo, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Northern Waterthrush, and Black-throated Green Warbler). One must wonder what these birds were eating given the extremely cold temperatures throughout April.

UNUSUAL SPECIES

Documentations were submitted for 10 casual or accidental species this spring, which is just one fewer than last year. The most exciting was likely the very cooperative Burrowing Owl that was found in Humboldt on 15 May and subsequently seen by many through 30 May. Two rare winter finch species were seen in Iowa this spring: Evening Grosbeak was documented in *Mahaska, Muscatine*, and *Story* and a Hoary Redpoll was found in a large flock of Common Redpolls on 18 Mar at Saylorville Res *Polk*. Two Little Blue Herons were seen in the state, one at Ada Hayden P *Story* and one at Lake Macbride *Johnson*, and Glossy Ibis made yet another couple appearances this spring in *Woodbury* and *Story* as it becomes one of the more regular rare bird species. A Prairie Warbler was found in the state again this spring, this time at Shimek SF *Lee*. Other rare species documented this spring included a Fish Crow in *Polk*, Rufous Hummingbird in *Ida*, Mountain Bluebird in *Davis*, and Painted Bunting in *Pottawattamie*.

SPECIES DATA

All CAPS = Accidental or Casual species, * = documented. County names are in italics. Full names of contributors are at the end of the article. Abbreviations used: ad = adult, BCA=Bird Conservation Area, L = lake, M = marsh, m.ob. = many observers, NWR = national wildlife refuge, P = park, ph = photo, R = river, RA = recreation area, Res = reservoir, SF = state forest, SL = sewage lagoons, Sl = slough, SP = state park, WA = wildlife area.

Snow Goose: Record setting numbers of this species were recorded at DeSoto NWR *Harrison* with the first report of 600,000 on 1 Mar. Reports of 500,000 at the same location came 8 Mar (Steve Nelson) and 15 Mar (Kimberly Emerson, Steve Emerson, Marilyn Emerson). Also in western Iowa, a report of 300,000 on 4 Mar in *Woodbury* (GLV) was the next highest. Reports of 10,000–70,000 continued through 12 Mar. Delayed ice out further north caused many birds to linger well into May mostly along and north of U.S. Highway 20. A total of 71 reports was submitted in May with high count of 200 on 1 May at Green Island WA *Jackson* (BW) and 18 May near Rockwell City *Calhoun* (KVS) and the last 31 May at Dan Green Sl *Clay* (LM) and Trumbull L *Clay* (JDJ).

Ross's Goose, West Lake Park, Johnson, *4 Apr 2018. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*

Ross's Goose: Reported statewide showing a migration pattern similar to

Snow Geese. Numerous reports 1 Mar indicated the onset of migration. Most: 2000 on 3 Mar at Jester P *Polk* (KVS). Last: 1 on 21 May at Pickerel L *Clay* (LAS).

Greater White-fronted Goose: Migration commenced in late Feb and continued into spring with 280 reported 1 Mar in *Adair* (DAk). Migration peaked 9 Mar with 15,000 reported at Saylorville Res *Polk* (PF), and the last bird was observed 31 May at Trumbull L *Clay* (JDJ).

Cackling Goose: Following a report of 120 in late Feb that constituted the high count of the year, numbers dwindled in spring. Reports of 60 on 4 Mar at Bays Branch WA *Guthrie* (DAk), 75 on 17 Mar at Amana Lily Pond *Iowa* (David Rose), and 75 on 20 Mar at Cone M *Louisa* (SD) were the high counts for spring. The last bird was seen 23 May at Prairie Lakes P *Black Hawk* (CPL).

Canada Goose: Most: 10,000 on 9 Mar at Saylorville Res *Polk* (PF).

Mute Swan: Reports of 1–2 birds in 7 counties including *Audubon, Buchanan, Clay, Dallas, Hardin, Johnson,* and *Scott*.

Trumpeter Swan: Large wintering flocks continued into early spring. Reports of 168 in *Warren* (JG) and 149 at Cone M *Louisa* (SN), both 1 Mar, were the high counts for spring. Several additional reports statewide as this species continues to expand its range in Iowa.

Tundra Swan: On 7 Mar, a total of 82 were reported at Phillipi L *Allamakee* (BR). An impressive count of 156 migrating birds was observed flying over New Albin near the Mississippi R *Allamakee* 26 Mar (BR), a usual migratory corridor for this species in Iowa. Reports of 1–25 birds in 12 counties continued through late Apr with the last 27 Apr at Bank Swallow Bend *Warren* (RJT).

Wood Duck: The first birds were observed 2 Mar at Saylorville Res *Polk* (Barb Manning, Jay Johnson). An impressive count of 150 was observed 5 Apr at Goose L *Kossuth* (DG).

Blue-winged Teal: First: 2 on 4 Mar at Jensen M *Madison* (JBo). Most: 480 on 14 Apr at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB).

Cinnamon Teal: Single males reported at 8 locations this spring: at Red Haw SP *Lucas* 4–15 Apr (JG–ph, m.ob.), at Ashworth and Greenwood P *Polk* 11 Apr (AB–ph, RJT, TD), in *Greene* 11 Apr (MTW), in *Woodbury* 19–21 Apr (GLV, POR), in *Greene* 21–22 Apr (MTW–ph, DAk–ph), in *Woodbury* 30 Apr–2 May (POR), at Aldo Leopold WA *Bremer* 5 May (TGS–ph, DGE), and at Big Wall L *Wright* 5 May (SJD–ph).

Northern Shoveler: This species welcomed the spring season with the first migrants arriving 1 Mar at both Pin Oak M *Lucas* (DR) and at Goose L *Johnson* (MHB, AM). Migration peaked with a high count of 746 on 8 Apr at Cone M *Louisa* (EM).

Gadwall: First arriving in late Feb, migration picked up in early spring with birds reported at several locations 1 Mar. Migration peaked 8 Apr with a high count of 720 at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (MHB).

Gadwall X Mallard: A single bird was seen 11 Mar at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JMc).

American Wigeon: Similar to Gad-

wall, migration started in late Feb and continued into spring with the first 3 reported 1 Mar at Holland M *Grundy* (DGE). High counts were of 200 on 11 Mar at both Saylorville Res *Polk* (Lisa Miller, JS) and Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JMc) and 220 on 8 Apr at Cone M *Louisa* (EM). Last: 1 on 29 May at Saylorville Res *Polk* (JG).

Mallard: Migration peaked in Mar with 5100 reported 8 Mar at Red Rock Res *Marion* (JG) and 5500 reported on both 21 and 28 Mar at Green Island WA *Jackson* (EM).

American Black Duck: Reported in 13 counties with the first 3 Mar at both Errington M *Polk* (DD) and Saylorville Res *Polk* (JDJ). Last 23 Apr at both Big M *Butler* (Brian Roberts) and Pintail Wetland *Hardin* (Brian Roberts).

Northern Pintail: Reports of 5–250 birds at several locations 1 Mar. Migration peaked 13 Mar with 5000 reported in *Woodbury* (GLV). Last 28 May at Owego Wetland Complex *Woodbury* (BH).

Green-winged Teal: Reports of 1–25 birds 1 Mar started migration for this species. Migration peaked in mid-Apr with reports of 640 on 17 Apr at Jensen M *Madison* (JG) and 500 on 19 Apr at Cone M *Louisa* (DG, RAS). Last 28 May at Freda Haffner Kettlehole State Preserve *Dickinson* (Jonah Alderson).

Canvasback: Like several other waterfowl, migration commenced 1 Mar with several reports of 5–40 birds across the state. High counts of 800 on 11 Mar on the Mississippi R *Jackson* (TM), 900 on 19 Mar in *Lee* (Rich DeCoster), and 700 on 27 Mar at Phillipi L *Allamakee* (BR) marked the peak of migration for this species. Last 23 May at Prairie Lakes P *Black Hawk* (CPL).

Redhead: The first reports of migrants occurred in late Feb and continued into early Mar with reports of 5–24 birds 1 Mar. Migration peaked with reports of 271 on 19 Mar at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC) and 200 on both 19 Mar at Hendrickson M *Marshall* (AS) and 20 Mar at Bays Branch WA *Guthrie* (DAk).

Redheads, Barringer Slough, Clay, *29 Mar 2018. Photograph by Jacob Newton, Ottosen, IA.*

Ring-necked Duck: First: Reports of 4–23 birds 1 Mar. Most: 1750 on 20 Mar at Bays Branch WA *Guthrie* (DAk). Last: 1 on 26 May at Trumbull L *Clay* (LAS).

Greater Scaup: A high of 20 was reported 17 Mar at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB) and again 28 Mar at Prairie Rose SP *Shelby* (DAk–ph) as reports from winter continued into spring. The last bird was reported 13 May in *Woodbury* (POR–details).

Lesser Scaup: Numerous reports of up to 50 birds 1 Mar, mostly south of *Johnson*, marked the start of migration for this species. High counts included 3600 on both 19 Mar on the Mississippi R *Lee* (Rich DeCoster) and 23 Mar at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB) and 4200 on

25 Mar at Saylorville Res *Polk* (BE). Migrants lingered until 31 May in *Palo Alto* (JDJ).

Surf Scoter: A single female was found by Jesse Ellis at Cedar L *Linn* 14 May and continued until 15 May (JE–ph, BCC–ph, JLF, JF, LGR).

White-winged Scoter: Only a single report 18 Mar of a lone bird at Lock and Dam 13 of the Mississippi R *Clinton* (JF).

Black Scoter: No reports.

Long-tailed Duck: A pair was reported 28 Mar at East Okoboji L *Dickinson* (m.ob.) and continued through 31 Mar (LAS). A single bird was also reported 7 May at Virgin L *Palo Alto* (LAS), nearly a record late date for this species.

Bufflehead: Several reports, mostly south and east of *Johnson*, on 1 Mar kicked off migration for this species. A report of 2000 on 21 Mar at Green Island WA *Jackson* (EM) was by far the high count this spring, with the second highest report of 130 reported 20 Mar at Bays Branch WA *Guthrie* (DAk). Last: 4 on 13 May at Trumbull L *Clay* (JDJ).

Common Goldeneye: Migrants started arriving in Feb and reports continued in early spring with 125 reported 1 Mar at Deere Dike *Dubuque* (CK). A report of 420 on 4 Mar at Red Rock Res *Marion* (AB) was the high for this spring, and the last migrant departed 7 May from *Lee* (Sarah Bissell).

Hooded Merganser: The first reports of spring came 1 Mar with a high of 160 reported 20 Mar at Bays Branch WA *Guthrie* (DAk).

Common Merganser: Most: 2880 on 11 Mar at Red Rock Res *Marion* (AB). Last: 1 on 5 May at Trumbull L *Clay* (JDJ).

Red-breasted Merganser: A bit later than their Common cousin, migration peaked 14 Apr with a high count of 300 at Bards L *Jackson* (BW) and concluded 15 May with a single bird at Prairie Lakes P *Black Hawk* (DGE).

Ruddy Duck: After few reports in winter, the first migrants arrived 1 Mar at both Cone M *Louisa* (SN) and Saylorville Res *Polk* (RJT). Migration peaked 14 Apr with 700 reported at Bards L *Jackson* (BW).

Northern Bobwhite: Several reports mostly south of a line from *Dubuque* to *Harrison*. Northernmost reports included a single calling bird 30 May at Elliott Creek *Woodbury* (TJL) and a single female 15 Apr in *Story* (Dean Biechler).

Gray Partridge: Reported from *Pottawattamie* in southwestern Iowa to *Fayette* in northeastern Iowa as this bird continues to be a pleasant surprise on birding trips across the state.

Ring-necked Pheasants, Jefferson, *15 Apr 2018. Photograph by Julie Johnston, Packwood, IA.*

Ring-necked Pheasant: A report of 25 on 16 Apr in *Polk* (Scott Propsom) was the high for this spring.

Ruffed Grouse: Reported at only two locations this spring as reports of this species continue to dwindle: 1 on 28 Apr at Clear Creek WA *Allamakee* (Renner Anderson) and 2 on 10 May in *Winneshiek* (PDBS).

Greater Prairie-Chicken: A total of 1–31 birds was reported at the Kellerton lek *Ringgold* (m.ob.). No reports away from this location.

Wild Turkey: A high of 40 was reported 8 Mar at Roseville Tree Farm *Floyd* (BB).

Pied-billed Grebe: First: 2 on 2 Mar at Saylorville Res *Polk* (Jay Johnson). Most: 90 on 11 Apr at Lake Manawa SP *Pottawattamie* (TR).

Horned Grebe: First: 1 on 4 Mar at Badger Creek RA *Madison* (SB). Most: 16 on 21 Apr at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB). Last: 2 on 15 May at Ingham L *Emmet* (JN).

Red-necked Grebe: Reported in 6 counties north and west of *Black Hawk* with the first 18 Mar at South Sabula Lakes P *Jackson* (BW) and the last, a report of 6, on 31 May at Trumbull L *Clay* (JDJ), a regular breeding location for this species in recent years.

Eared Grebe: A high of 12 was reported 17 May at Eagle Lake WA *Hancock* (DAk). Additional reports of 1–5 birds mostly statewide with the first 11 Mar at Red Rock Res *Marion* (AB) and the last 31 May at Trumbull L *Clay* (JDJ).

Western Grebe: A total of 1–4 birds was reported 22–31 May at Trumbull L *Clay* (m.ob.), a known breeding location for this species since the lake's restoration. Reported at 6 additional locations west of *Cerro Gordo* and north of *Buena Vista*.

Eurasian Collared-Dove: A high of 10 was reported 10 Mar in Scranton *Greene* (EEO).

White-winged Dove: Two reports of single birds 22 Apr in *Dickinson* (JN) and 1 May in *Story* (EEO).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: A single bird was reported 1 May at Green Island WA *Jackson* (BW), the third earliest report on record.

Black-billed Cuckoo: Reported in 13 counties from *Worth* south to *Appanoose* with the first 13 May in Mystic *Appanoose* (TNJ).

Common Nighthawk: First reports 1 May in Grimes *Polk* (JB) and over the Mississippi R *Jackson* (BW). An impressive count of 52 was reported 22 May in *Johnson* (AC).

Chuck-will's-widow: A total of 4 reports from the Lucas Unit of Stephens SF *Lucas*: 2 on 9 May (TM), 4 on 15 May (JG), 1 on 25 May (BCC, MHB), and 1 on 27 May (TD, RJT).

Eastern Whip-poor-will: Reported in 9 counties mostly statewide with the first 26 Apr in *Benton* (Craig Johnston).

Chimney Swift: First: 2 on 17 Apr at Water Works P *Polk* (RJT). Most: 80 on 11 May at Bee Branch Creek Greenway *Dubuque* (KJAB).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: The first migrant arrived 27 Apr in *Warren* (JG).

RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD: A single adult male was seen in *Ida* 13 Apr (*POR–ph, *DoP–ph).

Yellow Rail: Two reports: 1 on 19 Apr at Goose L *Clinton* (BW, CK) and 1 on 5 May at Legacy WA *Hardin* (TSS).

King Rail: No reports.

Virginia Rail: The first migrant was reported 19 Apr at Goose L *Clinton* (TM).

Sora: Migration commenced with a single bird reported 5 Apr at Deere Dike *Dubuque* (CK) and peaked with 32 reported 13 May at Voas Nature Area *Dallas* (AB).

Common Gallinule: Green Island WA *Jackson* is becoming a known location for this species with reports of 1–4 birds at this location 17 Apr–19 May (m.ob.). Reported at 8 additional locations mostly east of a line from *Kossuth* to *Wright* with a single bird 12 May at Brower Sl *Woodbury* being the westernmost report (GLV).

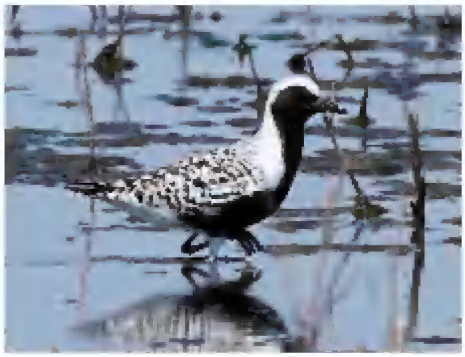
American Coot: First reports of 1–5 birds came 1 Mar mostly on the eastern side of the state (m.ob.). Most: 3000 on 17 Apr at Green Island WA *Jackson* (TM).

Sandhill Crane: Numerous reports 1 Mar marked the start of spring migration for this species. A high of 219 was reported 10 Mar in *Allamakee* (BR).

Black-necked Stilt: Reports of 1–2 birds in 8 counties, mostly in May, with the first 22 Apr at Pool Sl *Allamakee* (BR–ph) and last 28 May in *Woodbury* (BH–ph).

American Avocet: Several reports from across the state as this species continues to become increasingly regular during spring migration. First: 1 on 13 Apr at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD). Most: 28 on 1 May at McIntosh Woods SP *Cerro Gordo* (RGo). Last: 2 on 31 May in *Woodbury* (Benjamin Carlson).

Black-bellied Plover: More numerous than last spring, reports came from 15 counties from *Woodbury* east to *Dubuque* with the first 26 Apr at Legacy WA *Hardin* (TSS–details, DGE–details), high of 22 on 7 May in *Woodbury* (GLV), and last 29 May at Deere Dike *Dubuque* (TM).



Black-bellied Plover, Legacy WA, Hardin, *16 May 2018. Photograph by Brandon Caswell, Marion, IA.*

American Golden-Plover: Migration commenced with 14 birds reported 4 Apr at Green Island WA *Jackson* (BW) and peaked with 200 reported 23 Apr in *Johnson* (MHB). The last migrant was observed 28 May at Owego Wetland Complex *Woodbury* (BH).

Semipalmated Plover: First 17 Apr at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (MHB, JF). Migration peaked at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* with 80 reported 5 May (JMc). Last 30 May in *Buena Vista* (JNe).

Piping Plover: Only one report of a single bird 17 Apr at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF).

Killdeer: Most: 70 on 7 Apr at Cone M *Louisa* (SN).

Upland Sandpiper: First: 1 on 19 Apr at Brushy Creek RA *Webster* (DAk). Most: 9 on 27 May at a sod farm in *Dallas* (RJT).

Whimbrel: No reports.

Hudsonian Godwit: Numerous re-

ports from across the state with the first 15 Apr at Cone M *Louisa* (SN) and last 28 May at Owego Wetland Complex *Woodbury* (BH). A high of 17 was reported 20 Apr at Bank Swallow Bend *Warren* (JG).

Marbled Godwit: Reported in 8 counties statewide, mostly at large wetland complexes, with the first 12 Apr at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF) and the last 20 May in *Woodbury* (m.ob.). A single bird lingering at the Fairfield Airport J*efferson* 17 Apr (DCP, Orrin Jones *fide* TMH) was a surprising observation.

Ruddy Turnstone: Up to 3 migrants were first reported at Saylorville Res *Polk* 4 May (RLC, DTh, Jeffrey Ollie). A high of 5 was reported 7 May at Coralville Res *Johnson* (JF–ph). The last migrant was reported 24 May in *Cerro Gordo* (JR).

Stilt Sandpiper: Migrants passed through mostly in May with the exception of a few late Apr reports: 1 on 24 Apr at Green Island WA *Jackson* (Tim Huizenga), 2 on 26 Apr at Riverton WA *Fremont* (JG), and 1 on 27 Apr in *Humboldt* (DAk). Migration peaked with 47 on 19 May at Jensen M *Madison* (JG) and finished 30 May in *Buena Vista* (JNe).

Sanderling: Reported in 10 counties mostly statewide with the first 18 Apr at Gray's Lake P *Polk* (JB, Noelle Wagner, RJT–ph). Last 22 May at Deere Dike *Dubuque* (CK).

Dunlin: First: 2 on 5 Apr at Bank Swallow Bend *Warren* (JG). Most: 85 on 16 May in *Humboldt* (DAk). Last: 1 on 30 May in *Woodbury* (GLV).

Baird's Sandpiper: A single bird was photographed 8 Mar at Bank Swallow Bend *Warren* (JG), setting a new record for the earliest arrival of this species in spring. A high of 30 was reported again at Bank Swallow Bend *Warren* (JG) 20 May, and the last migrant departed the state 29 May from Deere Dike *Dubuque* (TM).

Least Sandpiper: First: 2 on 28 Mar at Bank Swallow Bend *Warren* (JG). Most: 221 on 11 May at Jensen M *Madison* (JBo). Last: 1 on 30 May at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC).

White-rumped Sandpiper: Migration was confined to May with the first 1 May in *Emmet* (JNe), peak of 80 on 28 May at Owego Wetland Complex *Woodbury* (BH), and last 31 May in *Black Hawk* (CPL).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: Only a single report of 2 birds 22 May in *Kossuth* (DG–details).

Pectoral Sandpiper: Similar to last year, the first migrants arrived 8 Mar at both Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (AM) and Bank Swallow Bend *Warren* (JG–ph). Migration peaked 2 May with an impressive count of 10,000 reported at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (BCC), the next highest count of 800 reported at the same location 27 Apr (JBo). The last migrants were reported 31 May in *Clay* (JDJ).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: An early migrant arrived 13 Apr at Jensen M *Madison* (JBo). High counts of 480 at Bank Swallow Bend *Warren* and 440 at Jensen M *Madison* were both reported 23 May (JG). Last 31 May in *Black Hawk* (CPL).

Western Sandpiper: Three birds reported from northwestern Iowa this spring: 1 on 13 May in *Clay* (JDJ–de-

tails, LAS) and 2 on 31 May in *Sioux* (JDJ–details).

Short-billed Dowitcher: A pair of birds reported 26 Apr at Riverton WA *Fremont* (JG–details) ties the second earliest report on record. The remaining reports came in May with a high of 70 on 20 May at Big Sioux County P *Plymouth* (DAk) and last 29 May at Owego Wetland Complex *Woodbury* (Jonah Alderson).

Long-billed Dowitcher: First: 1 on 12 Apr at Jensen M *Madison* (SB). Most: 114 on 5 May in *Clay* (JDJ, LAS). Last: 1 on 28 May at Owego Wetland Complex *Woodbury* (BH).

American Woodcock: First: 1 on 1 Mar at Waterworks Prairie P *Johnson* (Dean Hester). A high of 14 was reported 28 Mar at Red Feather Prairie *Polk* (AB), a popular displaying location for this species.

Wilson's Snipe: First 9 Mar at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (AM).

Spotted Sandpiper: First: 1 on 18 Apr at Gray's Lake P *Polk* (JB, RJT, TD).

Spotted Sandpiper, Brenton Slough, Dallas, *12 May 2018. Photograph by Reid Allen, West Des Moines, IA.*

Solitary Sandpiper: Migration commenced with 2 on 15 Apr at Cone M *Louisa* (SN) and peaked with 20 on 4 May at Larson M *Story* (EEO). Last 20 May at Cottonwood RA *Polk* (JE).

Lesser Yellowlegs: This common migrant shorebird first arrived in the state 19 Mar at Cottonwood RA *Polk* (RJT). High counts all came from *Johnson* in early May: 300 on 2 May at Coralville Res (BCC, Dean Hester), 400 on 4 May at Hawkeye WA (BCC), and 200 on 5 May at Hawkeye WA (MDR, Deb Rolfes) and 8 May at Coralville Res (JMc, BCC). Last 31 May in *Palo Alto* (JDJ).

Willet: While *Johnson* was a popular stopover for this species, individuals were reported statewide. The first migrant arrived 17 Apr at Prairie Lakes P *Black Hawk* (AKO). The high count of 20 was reported 8 May at Otter Creek M *Tama* (AS), and the last bird was reported 20 May at Jensen M *Madison* (JG).

Greater Yellowlegs: First: 1 on 20 Mar at Exira Pits *Audubon* (DAk). Most: 100 on 6 May at Otter Creek M *Tama* (Warren Wicks). Last: 1 on 31 May in *Black Hawk* (CPL).

Wilson's Phalarope: First: 2 on 21 Apr in *Woodbury* (RWR). Most: 150 on 2 May at New L *Woodbury* (POR). Last: 1 on 31 May at Jensen M *Madison* (Shari Schwartz).

Red-necked Phalarope: Reported in 6 counties in May: 1 on 5 May in *Dallas* (BE), 1 on 6 May at Legacy WA *Hardin* (TSS), 1 on 12 May at Colo Bogs *Story* (AN), 1 on 15 May in *Pocahontas* (POR–ph, JN), 1 on 25 May in *Woodbury* (GLV), and 1 on 31 May again at Legacy WA *Hardin* (SJD).

Bonaparte's Gull: First: 2 on 24

Mar in *Scott* (April Schlue). Most: 60 on 12 Apr at Lake Wapello SP *Davis* (CRE) and 30 Apr at *Black Hawk* Marsh WA *Sac* (Dan Simpson). Last: 3 on 20 May in *Humboldt* (RJT–ph).

Laughing Gull: No reports.

Franklin's Gull: An early migrant was observed 3 Mar at Lake Manawa *Pottawattamie* (CW). Migration peaked with 217 on 22 May in *Dickinson* (JDJ) and the last birds, 30 total, were seen 31 May at Trumbull L *Clay* (JDJ).

Ring-billed Gull: This species made a strong showing this spring compared to last year with 9 reports of counts higher than the highest count of 2800 last spring. Notable high counts included 8000 on 8 Mar at Red Rock Res *Marion* (JG), 6615 on 11 Mar at Red Rock Res *Marion* (AB), and 5500 on 1 Apr at Lake Macbride *Johnson* (MHB).

Herring Gull: The high count of 150 on 4 Mar at South Sabula Lakes P *Jackson* (TM, CK) was three times higher than last spring.

Iceland Gull: Three birds reported this spring: a 1st-cycle bird 8 Mar at Saylorville Res *Polk* (DTh), 1 on 11 Mar below the dam at Red Rock Res *Marion* (AB–ph), and an ad 17 Mar at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB–ph).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: While numerous reports of this species were received, careful review of the reports suggests at least 12 individuals were present in Iowa this spring. The first ad was reported 8 Mar at Cedar L *Linn* (BCC–ph, JF). At least 2 additional birds were reported at this location. Reports from 11 Mar at Red Rock Res *Marion* (AB–ph) suggest two different birds, and at least two different birds were observed at various locations around Saylorville Res *Polk* 17 Mar–28 Apr (m.ob.). Single birds were also reported 10 Mar at Lake Manawa *Pottawattamie* (RW–details), 30 Mar at Rathbun Res *Appanoose* (Peter Kondrashov), 2 Apr at Coralville Res *Johnson* (JLF), and 2 Apr at Deere Dike *Dubuque* (TM–ph).

Glaucous Gull: A single bird observed 27 Mar–20 Apr at Cedar L *Linn* (JF) was the only report this spring and is the new record late date for this species.

Least Tern: Numerous reports of 1–9 birds were received 19–20 May at Snyder Bend P *Woodbury* (m.ob.). Away from this location, single birds were observed 14 May at both Jensen M *Madison* (JG–ph) and in *Cedar* (JF), 19 May at Browns L *Woodbury* (TD), 20 May in *Plymouth* (DAk), and 30–31 May at Big Sioux RA *Sioux* (LM, JDJ).

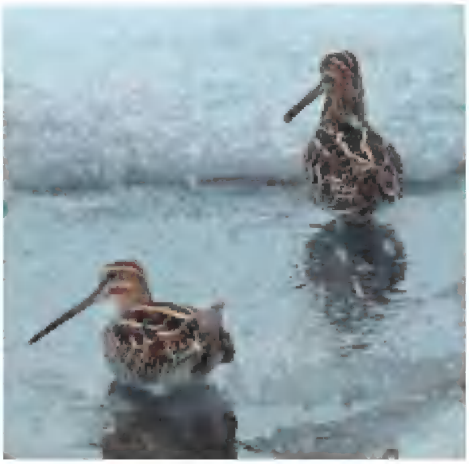
Caspian Tern: A single bird associating with Ring-billed Gulls 12 Apr at Lake Cona Toma *Cerro Gordo* (RGo) tied the second earliest report on record. A report of 23 on 12 May at Green Island WA *Jackson* (BW, TM) was the high count for this spring, and the last bird was seen 29 May at Deere Dike *Dubuque* (TM).

Black Tern: The first migrant arrived in the state 5 May at Jensen M *Madison* (RJT). High counts included 110 on 20 May at Snyder Bend P *Woodbury* (DAk) and 100 on 12 May at Dunbar Sl *Greene* (EEO).

Common Tern: Reported in 8 counties in May with the first 1 May at Deere Dike *Dubuque* (DAS). A report of 4 birds 31 May in *Sioux* (JDJ–details) was

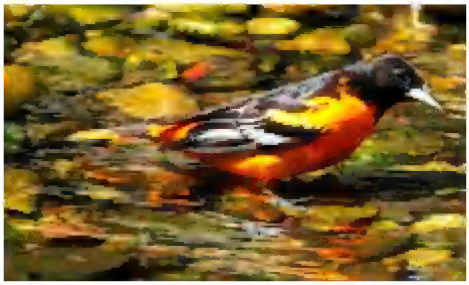
Blue Grosbeak, Sauk Rail Trail, Carroll, *20 May 2018. Photograph by Doug Harr, Ogden, IA.*

American Woodcock (juv), Hawkeye WA, Johnson, *9 May 2018. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*



Wilson's Snipe, Clay, *3 Apr 2018. Photograph by Jacob Newton, Ottosen, IA.*

Snowy Owl, Wright, *5 Apr 2018. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.*



Baltimore Oriole, Marion, Linn, *15 May 2018. Photograph by Brandon Caswell, Marion, IA.*

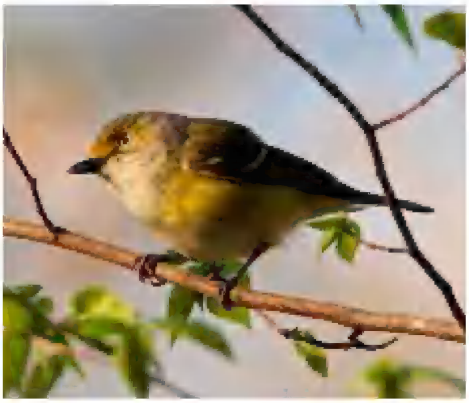
Orchard Oriole, Cerro Gordo, *13 May 2018. Photograph by Bruce G. McKee, Mason City, IA.*

Common Loon, Lake Comelia, Wright, *22 Apr 2018. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.*

Double-crested Cormorant, South Twin Lake, Calhoun, *25 Apr 2018. Photograph by Jacob Newton, Ottosen, IA.*

Hermit Thrush, Ames, Story, *15 Apr 2018. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.*

Least Sandpiper, Terry Trueblood RA, Johnson, *2 May 2018. Photograph by Brandon Caswell, Marion, IA.*



White-eyed Vireo, Coralville Res, Johnson, *7 May 2018. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*

Indigo Bunting, Cerro Gordo, *8 May 2018. Photograph by Bruce G. McKee, Mason City, IA.*

Wilson's Warbler, Dunbar Slough, Greene, *20 May 2018. Photograph by Reid Allen, West Des Moines, IA.*

Yellow-throated Warbler, Coralville Dam, Johnson, *8 May 2018. Photograph by Brandon Caswell, Marion, IA.*

Yellow-rumped Warbler, Sand Lake, Woodbury, *7 May 2018. Photograph by Paul Roisen, Sioux City, IA.*

Black-and-white Warbler, Shimek SF, Van Buren, *5 May 2018. Photograph by Julie Johnston, Packwood, IA.*

Wilson's Warbler, Lacey-Keosauqua SP, Van Buren, *13 May 2018. Photograph by Julie Johnston, Packwood, IA.*

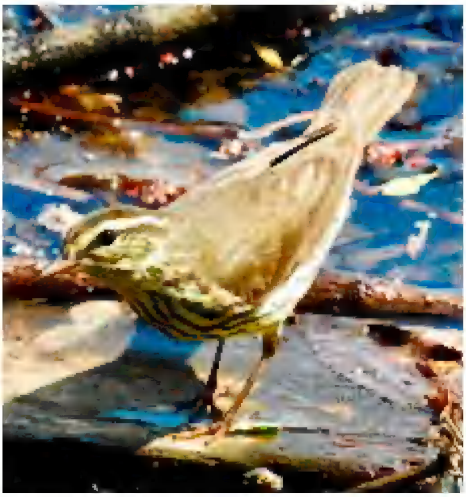
Nashville Warbler, Ledges SP, Boone, *3 May 2018. Photograph by Doug Harr, Ogden, IA.*

Common Yellowthroat, Rural Birmingham, Van Buren, *13 May 2018. Photograph by Julie Johnston, Packwood, IA.*

Prothonotary Warbler, Hartman Reserve, Black Hawk, *5 May 2018. Photograph by Connor Langan, Waterloo, IA.*

Louisiana Waterthrush, Shimek SF, Lee, *20 Apr 2018. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*

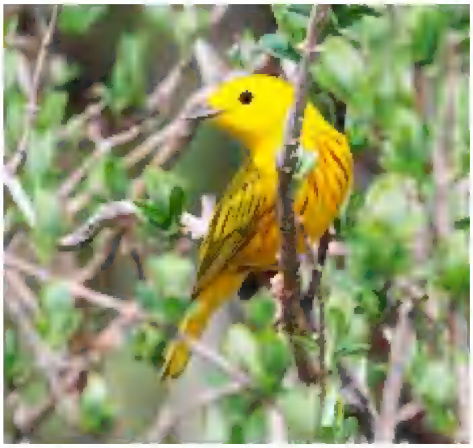
Palm Warbler, Pine Lake SP, Hardin, *7 May 2018. Photograph by Reid Allen, West Des Moines, IA.*



Northern Waterthrush, Hartman Reserve, Black Hawk, *5 May 2018. Photograph by Connor Langan, Waterloo, IA.*

Black-and-white Warbler, Hartman Reserve, Black Hawk, *5 May 2018. Photograph by Connor Langan, Waterloo, IA.*

Cape May Warbler, Black Hawk, *14 May 2018. Photograph by Connor Langan, Waterloo, IA.*

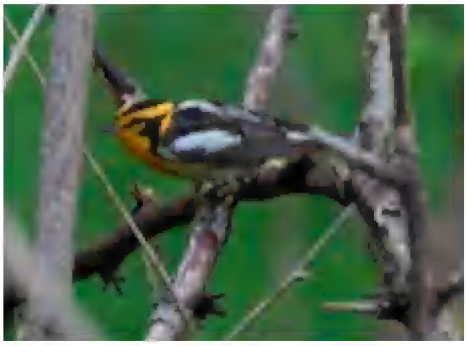


Yellow Warbler, Story, *5 May 2019. Photograph by Eric Ollie, Ames, IA.*

Black-and-white Warbler, Trumbull Lake, Clay, *14 May 2018. Photograph by Jacob Newton, Ottosen, IA.*

Blackpoll Warbler, Lacey-Keosauqua SP, Van Buren, *13 May 2018. Photograph by Julie Johnston, Packwood, IA.*

Blackpoll Warbler, Hottes Lake, Dickinson, *20 May 2018. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*



Blackburnian Warbler, Cottonwood RA, Polk, *13 May 2018. Photograph by Reid Allen, West Des Moines, IA.*

Yellow Warbler, Brenton Slough, Dallas, *15 May 2018. Photograph by Reid Allen, West Des Moines, IA.*

Cerulean Warbler, Yellow River SF, Allamakee, *31 May 2018. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.*

American Redstart, Lacey-Keosauqua SP, Van Buren, *14 May 2018. Photograph by Julie Johnston, Packwood, IA.*

American Redstart, Marion, Linn, *15 May 2018. Photograph by Brandon Caswell, Marion, IA.*

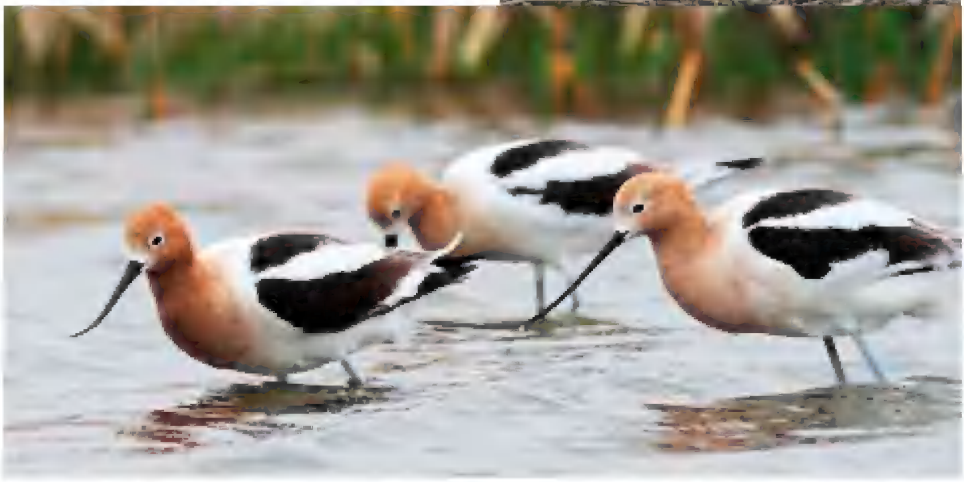
Blackburnian Warbler, Hottes Lake, Dickinson, *20 May 2018. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*

Palm Warbler, Louisa, *2 Mar 2018. Photograph by Linda Rudolph, Coralville, IA.*

Peregrine Falcon, Bob Pyle M, Story, *5 May 2018. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.*

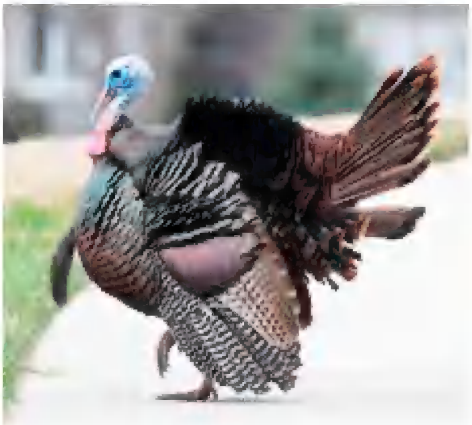
Hooded Mergansers, Trumbull Lake, Clay, *16 Mar 2018. Photograph by Jacob Newton, Ottosen, IA.*

RIGHT: Osprey, Brown's Lake, Woodbury, *7 May 2018. Photograph by Paul Roisen, Sioux City, IA.*



American Avocets, Terry Trueblood RA, Johnson, *3 May 2018. Photograph by Brandon Caswell, Marion, IA.*

Yellow-throated Vireo, Bacon Creek, Woodbury, *7 May 2018. Photograph by Paul Roisen, Sioux City, IA.*



Wild Turkey, Linn, *23 Apr 2018. Photograph by Linda Rudolph, Coralville, IA.*

Spotted Sandpiper, Sand Lake, Woodbury, *7 May 2018. Photograph by Paul Roisen, Sioux City, IA.*

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, The Square, Woodbury, *7 May 2018. Photograph by Paul Roisen, Sioux City, IA.*

Ruddy Duck and Horned Grebe, Barringer Slough, Clay, *25 Apr 2018. Photograph by Jacob Newton, Ottosen, IA.*

Black-capped Chickadee, Ledges SP, Boone, *25 May 2018. Photograph by Doug Harr, Ogden, IA.*

the last for the spring.

Forster's Tern: First: 1 on 13 Apr at Cedar L *Linn* (JF). Migration peaked with 20 on 4 May at Jensen M *Madison* (SB). Last: 1–2 on 31 May at Trumbull L *Clay* (LM, JDJ).

Red-throated Loon: A total of 6 individuals reported this spring: a single bird first found by Noelle Wagner at Saylorville Res *Polk* 27 Mar was seen until 5 Apr (m.ob.), a single ad was seen 14–17 Apr at Little Wall L *Hamilton* (SJD–ph, TMH–ph, TG–ph), a single bird 14 Apr at Grundy County L *Grundy* (TGS), a single bird first found by Jim Forde 20 Apr at Pleasant Creek RA *Linn* seen until 25 Apr (m.ob.), an ad at Mabaska Pond *Boone* 25–28 Apr (SJD–ph), and another ad 24 May at Little Wall L *Hamilton* (SJD–ph).

Red-throated Loon, Mabaska Pond, Boone, *25 Apr 2018. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.*

Common Loon: First: 1 on 16 Mar at Big Woods L *Black Hawk* (DGE). Most: 72 on 9 Apr at Big Creek SP *Polk* (RLC). Last: 1 on 31 May at Trumbull L *Clay* (LM). An individual photographed and later collected dead 24 May at Jensen M *Madison* was initially identified as a Yellow-billed Loon and caused some excitement among birders, but further analysis confirmed it was indeed a Common Loon.

Neotropic Cormorant: A single bird first seen in Nebraska apparently paid a visit to Carter L *Pottawattamie* 13 Apr (Katie Gooby). Single birds were also reported 23 Apr at the Luther Bridge *Boone* (JG–details) and 11 May near Brenton Sl *Dallas* (JG–details).

Double-crested Cormorant: High counts included 1880 on 19 Apr in *Polk* (AB), 1275 on 27 Apr at Big Creek SP *Polk* (RLC), and 1600 on 28 Apr at Big Creek WA *Polk* (AB).

American White Pelican: After a small number in winter, reports increased in spring with the first 1 Mar at Saylorville Res *Polk* (TD, PP) and at Deere Dike *Dubuque* (CK). The high count of 3000 was reported 12 Mar at Green Island WA *Jackson* (EM). Reports continued through 31 May at multiple locations.

American Bittern: The first migrant arrived 10 Apr at Cedar Creek Wetland *Jefferson* (TC). Numerous additional reports statewide.

Least Bittern: First on 7 May at Deere Dike *Dubuque* (Tim Huizenga).

Great Blue Heron: Most: 40 on 31 May at Trumbull L *Clay* (LM).

Great Egret: One week earlier than last spring, the first migrants arrived 19 Mar at Green Island WA *Jackson* (EM). The high count also occurred at this location 12 Apr (TM). The last birds were observed 31 May at Amana Lily Pond *Iowa* (Dean Hester).

Snowy Egret: Reported in 8 counties with the first 27 Apr at Cone M *Louisa* (JBo–ph) and last 14 May at Waterworks Prairie P *Johnson* (LGR–details).

LITTLE BLUE HERON: Two reports: a white subadult 24 Apr at Ada

Hayden P *Story* (*SJD) and an ad seen at Lake Macbride SP *Johnson* 20–22 May (*MDR–ph, m.ob.).

Cattle Egret: The first migrant was reported 14 Apr in *Black Hawk* (TGS), nearly one week earlier than the next report. Last 30 May at Dunbar Sl *Greene* (MTW).

Osprey, Jefferson, *22 May 2018. Photograph by Julie Johnston, Packwood, IA.*

Green Heron: First 20 Apr at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* (KVS).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: First 1 Apr at McFarland P *Story* (JS) and high of 11 on 1 May in *Carroll* (Victor Webber).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: A single bird was found in *Pottawattamie* 29 Apr, an exciting observation for a young birder (Kadynn Hatfield–details).

GLOSSY IBIS: Two reports: single birds were observed 6–7 May at Colo Bogs *Story* (*HZ–ph, *AMJ–ph, *POR–ph, m.ob.) and 10 May at Table M *Woodbury* (*POR).

White-faced Ibis: First: 4 on 20 Apr at Big Creek SP *Polk* (RLC). Most: 16 on 28 Apr at Table M *Woodbury* (POR). Last: 11 on 21 May at Sandhill L *Woodbury* (BH).

Turkey Vulture: The first migrant arrived in late winter followed by the second 1 Mar in *Adair* (DAk). A big push of 250 migrants moved through *Kossuth* 22 Apr (DG).

Osprey: Reports of 1–2 birds as far south as *Appanoose* with the first 23 Mar in *Jackson* (Mark Miles).

Golden Eagle: Single birds reported in 9 counties mostly north of *Madison* and west of *Tama*. The easternmost report occurred 11 Mar and again 18 Mar at Green Island WA *Jackson* (TM, RAS, CK, BW). The first bird was reported 3 Mar at Waterman Creek Valley *O'Brien* (LAS) and the last 3 May in *Johnson* (JLF).

Northern Harrier: Reports from winter continued into spring with a high count of 7 birds reported 7 Apr in *Greene* (Victor Webber) and at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (CRE).

Sharp-shinned Hawk: Several reports statewide with the first 1 Mar in *Adair* (DAk) and last 18 May in *Pottawattamie* (MPe).

Cooper's Hawk: First birds of spring were observed 1 Mar in *Muscatine* (SN), Polk (AB), and at Terry Trueblood RA *Johnson* (AM).

Northern Goshawk: This species made a strong showing in Iowa this spring with reports from 6 counties: 1 on 7 Apr in *Linn* (JE–details), 1 on 10 Apr in *Cerro Gordo* (RGo), 1 on 12 Apr in *Black Hawk* (TGS), 1 on 15 Apr in *Delaware* (TM), 1 on 17 Apr at Snyder Bend P *Woodbury* (POR–details), and 1 on 22 Apr in *Kossuth* (DG–details).

Bald Eagle: A report of 352 on 20 Mar at Saylorville Res *Polk* (PP) was the high for this spring.

Mississippi Kite: Reports of 1–3 birds at various locations around the Des Moines metro area *Polk* 2–31 May (m.ob.), a usual location for this species. A single bird was reported 9 May at Memorial P *Wapello* (TM), another usual location for this species. An impressive count of 8 reported 29 May in West Des Moines *Polk* (DTh) was the high.

Red-shouldered Hawk: Reported in counties mostly east of *Madison*. Westernmost reports included a single bird reported 28 Mar in *Dickinson* (JN, JNe) and another 27 May at Waubonsie SP *Fremont* (Shari Schwartz).

Broad-winged Hawk: First: 3 on 11 Apr at Green Island WA *Jackson* (CK). Most: 150 on 22 Apr in *Kossuth* (DG).

Swainson's Hawk: The first migrants were seen 6 Apr in *Sioux* (JDJ). Migration peaked with 24 in *Crawford* 24 Apr (DAk). Last 22 May in *Sioux* (JDJ).

Rough-legged Hawk: The last bird was reported 29 Apr at Deere Dike *Dubuque* (KJAB).

Barn Owl: Two reports from northwestern Iowa: 1 on 27 May in *Clay* (Dwight Rutter *fide* LAS) and 1 on 31 May at Iowa Lakeside Laboratory *Dickinson* (Jonah Alderson).

Eastern Screech-Owl: Reported in 8 counties mostly statewide this spring.

Great Horned Owl: Numerous reports of 1–3 birds throughout the state and the spring season.

Snowy Owl: All: 1 on 7 Mar in *Polk* (Caleb Hansen), a juv male and juv female were observed 11–12 Mar at the Eastern Iowa Airport *Linn* (JF), and a juv male was seen in *Wright* 5 Apr (SJD–ph).

BURROWING OWL: A single bird was first observed by Jacob Newton and Jason Newton 15 May in *Humboldt* and subsequently seen by many through 30 May (*JN–ph, m.ob.).

Barred Owl: Similar to Great Horned Owl, reports of 1–4 birds statewide throughout the spring season.

Long-eared Owl: All: 1 on 22 Mar in Silver City *Pottawattamie* (Otto Gockman) and 1 on 12 Apr in *Floyd* (RGo).

Short-eared Owl: Reported in 18 counties this spring, far more numerous and widespread than last year with the first of spring 7 Mar at Trumbull L *Clay* (JNe) and last 20 Apr in *Pottawattamie* (Jen Steele).

Northern Saw-whet Owl: A total of 1–2 birds was seen 3 Mar–19 Mar at George Wyth SP *Black Hawk* (m.ob.).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Widespread reports of 1–6 birds 1 Mar–31 May.

Northern Flicker: A high of 50 reported 15 Apr at Ada Hayden P *Story* (JS) was more than double the high count reported last spring.

Pileated Woodpecker: Numerous reports from mostly the eastern two-thirds of the state. However, birds were reported in western Iowa counties of *Plymouth, Woodbury*, and *Fremont* this spring.

Merlin: Reported in 22 counties as this species continues to become more regular in winter and early spring. The last bird was seen 8 May at Broken Kettle

Grasslands *Plymouth* (TJL).

Peregrine Falcon: Like the Merlin, this species also is becoming a more regular sighting on the Iowa landscape. Reports of mostly single birds started 4 Mar at Cone M *Louisa* (DR) and continued through 29 May at the Iowa State Capitol grounds *Polk* (AB).

Prairie Falcon: No reports.

Western Kingbird: Reported in 8 counties in May mostly west of a line from *Kossuth* to *Polk* with the first arrivals 1 May at Gleason-Hubel WA *Harrison* (Neal Ratzlaff) and in downtown Des Moines *Polk* (DD). A high count of 5 was reported both 9 May and 14 May at two different locations in *Pottawattamie* (CW, Garrett Behrends).

Eastern Kingbird: The first migrants arrived 29 Apr at Shimek SF *Lee* (RAS, DR, David Rose), Cone M *Louisa* (SN), and in *Decatur* (AMJ).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: Two reports: 1 on 1 May in *Audubon* (Kathleen Bucher) and 1 on 27 May at Cone M *Louisa* (SD).

Great Crested Flycatcher: Migrants arrived 30 Apr in *Louisa* (JBo, CRE) and at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (JP), Walnut Woods SP *Polk* (JG), and Waterworks P *Polk* (JB, AB).

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Reports of 1–3 birds statewide in May with the first 8 May at Hartman Reserve *Black Hawk* (CPL).

Eastern Wood-Pewee: A single bird reported 28 Apr at Deere Dike *Dubuque* (DAS–details) was the first this spring and tied the third earliest report on record.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Firsts 10 May at Dunbar Sl *Greene* (DTh) and Ashworth P *Polk* (JB).

Acadian Flycatcher: The first migrant arrived 3 May at Credit Island P *Scott* (Nigel Bates), which ties the second earliest report on record. Additional reports statewide, mostly in wooded areas.

Alder Flycatcher: First: 1 on 12 May at Waterworks Prairie P *Johnson* (JP). Last: 1 on 31 May at Deere Dike *Dubuque* (BH).

Willow Flycatcher: Two record early reports from this spring: a single bird 2 May along the Skunk River Greenbelt *Story* (IBM, Zeke Smith) is the earliest reported for this species and a pair of birds 5 May at Red Haw SP *Lucas* (Erika Clark) is the second earliest report on record.

Least Flycatcher: First: Singles 30 Apr at Daley P *Story* (EM) and Cone M *Louisa* (CRE). Most: 31 on 13 May at Ledges SP *Boone* (DAk). Last: 1 on 28 May in *Allamakee* (PDBS).

Eastern Phoebe: The first migrant arrived 9 Mar in *Scott* (RAS).

Loggerhead Shrike: The first bird of 2018 was seen 1 Apr in *Polk* (AB–details). Reported in 12 additional counties with single birds 9 May at Elk Creek M *Worth* (DAk–ph) and at Center L *Dickinson* (Kelly Hurst) being the northernmost reports.

Northern Shrike: Several birds lingered into spring this year, mostly north of Highway 92, with the last 8 Apr in *Polk* (AB) being the second latest report on record.

White-eyed Vireo: First 29 Apr at the Croton Unit of Shimek SF *Lee* (m.ob.). Reported in 9 additional counties south of Interstate 80 and east of *Polk*.

Bell's Vireo: The second earliest report on record came from Whiterock Conservancy *Guthrie* 28 Apr (IBM).

Yellow-throated Vireo: Firsts 29 Apr at Lacey-Keosauqua SP *Van Buren* (FB, EEO) and at the Farmington Unit of Shimek SF *Lee* (FB).

Blue-headed Vireo: This common migrant was first observed 30 Apr at Ashworth P *Polk* (RJT), in *Scott* (RAS), at Castle Bluffs P *Black Hawk* (AKO), Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (JP), and Water Works P *Polk* (AB). Last 22 May along the Upper Iowa R *Winneshiek* (SD).

Philadelphia Vireo: Reports of 1–4 birds statewide with the first 3 May at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (AM, DW, CRE, LGR). Last 25 May at Four Mounds *Dubuque* (DAS).

Warbling Vireo: Migrants first arrived 1 May at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (MHB), Water Works P *Polk* (JB, RJT), Riverside Bike Trail *Washington* (FB), and Green Island WA *Jackson* (BW).

Red-eyed Vireo: First migrants arrived 1 May at George Wyth SP *Black Hawk* (BLP), Terry Trueblood RA *Johnson*, Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (JBo), and Water Works P *Polk* (RJT).

FISH CROW: A single bird was observed 22 Apr at Jester P *Polk* (*RJT–ph).

Horned Lark: With only a couple reports in Feb, reports picked up in early spring with peak counts of 200–400 on 7 Mar in *Adair* (DAk).

Purple Martin: First: 2 at Purple Martin L *Polk* (JG) and 1 in *Greene* (MTW), both 11 Apr. Most: 50 on 11 May at Purple Martin Ridge *Jefferson* (SF).

Tree Swallow: The earliest of the swallows to arrive, the first migrants entered the state 19 Mar in *Jackson* (EB) and *Scott* (RAS). A report of 400 on 12 May at Trumbull L *Clay* (JDJ) was the high this spring.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: First: 2 on 11 Apr in *Audubon* (DAk). Most: 100 on 9 May at Harmon L *Winnebago* (DAk) and 20 May in *Woodbury* (Richard Latuchie).

Bank Swallow: Reports far more numerous and widespread than last spring. The first migrant arrived 21 Apr at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB). Migration peaked with 250 on 9 May at Harmon L *Winnebago* (DAk).

Cliff Swallow: First: 1 on 13 Apr at Gray's Lake P *Polk* (JB). Most: 400 on 12 May at Virgin L *Palo Alto* (JDJ).

Barn Swallow: The first migrants arrived in the southeast corner of the state 1 Apr at Discovery P *Muscatine* (DG) and in *Des Moines* (VR). A report of 200 on 13 May at Voas Nature Area *Dallas* (AB) was the high count this spring.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: Reported statewide starting 1 Mar with 1 at Big Creek WA *Polk* (JG). The last bird was observed 14 May at Sycamore Access *Polk* (Warren Wicks).

Brown Creeper: Last 22 May along the Upper Iowa R *Winneshiek* (SD).

House Wren: First 16 Apr on Iowa State University campus *Story* (AN).

Winter Wren: After only 3 reports over winter, the first spring bird was reported 10 Mar in Burlington *Des Moines* (LQ). With the exception of single reports in *Allamakee* (BR) and *Fayette* (Nichole Jones), reported south of a line from *Dubuque* to *Greene* with

late reports 13 May at Ledges SP *Boone* (DAk–details) and 11 May at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (CRE, JMc–details).

Sedge Wren: A single bird arrived 21 Apr at Prairie Ridge M *Black Hawk* (AKO), nearly one week earlier than the next report. Most reports occurred in May mostly statewide.

Marsh Wren: First 20 Apr at Big Creek SP *Polk* (IBM). Most: 30 on 31 May at both Trumbull L *Clay* (JDJ) and Union Slough NWR *Kossuth* (DAk).

Carolina Wren: Reported south of a line from *Allamakee* to *Monona.*

Bewick's Wren: A regular at the Argyle Junkyard *Lee*, surprisingly there were no reports of this species this spring.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: The first migrant was reported 21 Apr at the Lick Creek Unit of Shimek SF *Lee* (DR). A report of 30 on 10 May at Stone SP *Woodbury* (TJL) was the high count for this spring.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: First: 2 on 22 Mar in Blue Grass *Scott* (RAS). Most: 25 on 13 Apr along Bear Creek *Story* (EEO). A single migrant lingered until 5 May at Squaw Creek P *Linn* (Kathy Gretter).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: A pair of birds at Yellow Smoke P *Crawford* (DAk) 21 Mar tied the third earliest report on record. Migration peaked 28 Apr with a high count of 39 at Black Hawk P *Black Hawk* (CPL). Last 25 May at Brookside P *Story* (DAk).

MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD: A single bird was first seen 9 Apr in *Davis* (TNJ–ph) and subsequently seen until 12 Apr (*Randall Scheiner–ph, *POR–ph).

Eastern Bluebird: A report of 20 on 8 Apr at Mines of Spain RA *Dubuque* (Richard Walschinski) was the high for this spring.

Townsend's Solitaire: No reports.

Veery: Reported mostly statewide from north to south and east to west with the first 3 May at both the Squire Point Trail *Johnson* (AM) and Mines of Spain SP *Dubuque* (RSp).

Gray-cheeked Thrush: With the exception of the first report 30 Apr at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (m.ob.) and Ashworth Park *Polk* (RJT–details), reports of 1–11 birds in May with the last, a report of 10, on 22 May in *Linn* (JE).

Swainson's Thrush: A couple of early birds arrived 29 Apr at both Stephens SF *Lucas* (AMJ) and Palisades P *Winneshiek* (PDBS). Last 26 May at Cottonwood RA *Polk* (KVS).

Hermit Thrush: First: 1 on 24 Mar in *Story* (DAk). Most: 75 on 15 Apr at Jester P *Polk* (JB). Last: 1 on 9 May in *Bremer* (KCR).

Wood Thrush: First 29 Apr in *Story* (Helen Hartman).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Red Haw SP, Lucas, *25 Apr 2018. Photograph by Julie Johnston, Packwood, IA.*

Gray Catbird: The first migrant arrived 22 Apr in New Albin *Allamakee*

(BR). A report of 28 on 8 May at Yellow Smoke P *Crawford* (DAk) was the high count for this spring.

Brown Thrasher: First 4 Apr in *Des Moines* (Bobby Wilcox).

Northern Mockingbird: Reported mostly south of a line from *Bremer* to *Woodbury* with the first 7 Mar in *Adair* (DAk) and last 31 May at Jensen M *Madison* (Susa Stonedahl, Forrest Stonedahl). A single bird was photographed northeast of Ida Grove *Ida* 11 May (DoP–ph), the northernmost report for this spring and quite north of the typical range for this species.

Cedar Waxwing: The first bird of spring was reported 1 Mar in *Johnson* (BCC). The high count of 120 was reported 20 May at East Hottes L *Dickinson* (MHB).

Eurasian Tree Sparrow: Reported in 18 counties east of *Polk*, this species continues its rapid expansion in the eastern part of the state. A report of 30 on 1 Apr at Cone M *Louisa* (PL) was the high count this spring.

American Pipit: First: 3 on 6 Mar at Rolling Cove P *Appanoose* (AB). Most: 35 on 13 May at Hendrickson M *Story* (DAk). Last: 3 in *Crawford* (DAk), 2 at Big Marsh WA *Butler* (CRE), and 1 at Aldo Leopold WA *Bremer* (Brian Roberts), all 14 May.

EVENING GROSBEAK: Three reports: 1 on 18 Apr in *Mahaska* (*Chris Strong–ph), a single female 22 Apr in *Muscatine* (*SN–ph, *RAS–ph), and 1 on 9 May in *Story* (*EEO, David Mott).

Purple Finch: Reports from winter continued into spring with the last 15 May in Cedar Rapids *Linn* (DP). An impressive count of 83 was reported 15 Apr in *Jackson* (BW).

Common Redpoll: The first bird appeared in Jay Gilliam's backyard *Warren* 1 Mar. Up to 3 birds continued to be seen at this location until 20 Mar (JG). Additional reports in *Cerro Gordo* (RGo), *Chickasaw* (KF), *Greene* (MTW, CR), *Jasper* (KVS), *Linn* (JD), *Pocahontas* (Zachary Mercer), *Polk* (AB), *Winneshiek* (PDBS), and *Woodbury* (GLV). A report of 70 on 18 Mar at Saylorville *Polk* (AB) was the high and the last birds were reported 17 Apr at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* (KVS).

HOARY REDPOLL: A single bird was seen ln a flock of about 70 redpolls on 18 Mar at Saylorville Res *Polk* (*AB–ph).

Red Crossbill: Reported in 9 counties this spring with the first 2 Mar in *Story* (DAk) and the last, a flock of 11, on 12 May at the Dickinson County Nature Center *Dickinson* (TMH, Graham Harms, Otis Harms).

White-winged Crossbill: All: 1 on 1 Mar in Breda *Carroll* (Dean Schettler), 6 on 5 Mar in *Boone* (DCH), 2 on 21 Mar at Graceland Cemetery *Woodbury* (BH), and 1 on 22 Apr at Fairmount Cemetery *Scott* (WMZ).

Pine Siskin: A high count of 25 was reported 21 Mar at Graceland Cemetery *Woodbury* (BH).

Lapland Longspur: Reported in much larger numbers this spring compared to last. High counts included 6800, 5200, and 4700, all 7 Mar in *Adair* (DAk), and 9500 on 12 Apr in *Winnebago* (DAk). Last: 7 on 24 Apr in *Kossuth* (DG).

Smith's Longspur: Reported in 12 counties north of Interstate 80 with the

first 1 Mar *Adair* (DAk). The Lehman Organic Farm *Polk* was a popular location for this species with reports of 2–300 birds 6–9 Apr (m.ob.). The last birds were reported 4 May in *Winnebago* (RAS).

Snow Bunting: Only 3 reports: 11 on 12 Mar in *Emmet* (JNe), 1 on 31 Mar in *Woodbury* (BH), and 30 on 9 Apr in *Webster* (DCH).

Spotted Towhee: All: 1 on 2 May in Sioux City *Woodbury* (GLV), 1 on 3 May at Lizard L *Pocahontas* (JN), 1 on 8 May at Bacon Creek P *Woodbury* (Justin Hill), 1 on 20 May in *Plymouth* (DAk), and 1 on 20 May at Oak Grove and Big Sioux P *Sioux* (DAk).

Eastern Towhee: First: 2 on 9 Mar at Jefferson County P *Jefferson* (TC).

American Tree Sparrow: After only 5 reports in winter, reports picked up in spring with high counts of 250 on 21 Apr at Colo Bogs *Story* (EEO), 138 on 19 Apr at Chichaqua Bottoms *Polk* (RLC), and 110 on 6 Mar at Big Creek SP *Polk* (RLC) and 17 Mar at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB). The last bird was seen 30 Apr at Jester P *Polk* (RLC).

Chipping Sparrow: First 27 Mar at East River Valley P *Story* (IBM).

Clay-colored Sparrow: The first migrant arrived 24 Apr at Terry Trueblood RA *Johnson* (DGE). A migrant flock of 26 was observed 5 May in *Sioux* (JDJ).

Field Sparrow: First: 2 on 18 Mar at Green Island WA *Jackson* (BW, CK).

Vesper Sparrow: A single bird reported 7 Mar in *Adair* (DAk–details) tied the earliest report on record.

Lark Sparrow: A single bird observed 28 Mar at Cone M *Louisa* (RAS) was the earliest report on record by one week. Additional reports mostly south and east of *Woodbury* through the end of spring.

Savannah Sparrow: This species made an early appearance this spring with three reports within the range of earliest reported dates on record. A report of 2 birds at Errington M *Polk* (RLC) and 1 at the Brenton Feedlot *Dallas* (TD), both 3 Mar, tied the earliest report on record. Additionally, 2 birds reported 4 Mar at Marsh Farm Wetland *Dallas* (Warren Wicks) tied the second earliest report on record. A high of 20 was reported 7 Apr at Dunbar Sl *Greene* (Lisa Miller, JS).

Savannah Sparrow, Van Buren, *13 May 2018. Photograph by Julie Johnston, Packwood, IA.*

Grasshopper Sparrow: Reported in a nearly equal number of counties north and south of U.S. Highway 20 with the first 23 Apr at Pintail M *Hardin* (Brian Roberts). A total of 20 was reported 30 May at Broken Kettle Grasslands *Plymouth* (TJL), a likely breeding stronghold for this species.

Henslow's Sparrow: Reported mostly along and south of Highway 30 with the first 23 Apr at Neal

Smith NWR *Jasper* (KVS). Northernmost reports included 1 on 15 May at Sweet M *Bremer* (KCR), 2 on 21 May at Kettleson Hogsback WA *Dickinson* (MHB), and 2 on 25 May at Anderson Prairie State Preserve *Emmet* (Jason Newton). Additional reports of 23 on 30 May and 22 on 31 May at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* (KVS) indicate the importance of this breeding location for this area-sensitive grassland species.

LeConte's Sparrow: A total of 11 reports from 7 counties with the first 12 Apr at Kish-Ke-Kosh Prairie *Jasper* (Austin Chipps) and last 5 May at Legacy WA *Hardin* (TSS).

Nelson's Sparrow: Again this year, a small flock of 3 migrants visited Pintail M *Hardin* 15 May (TGS). Additional reports of 1 on 12 May at Saddlebrook Wetland Trail *Johnson* (Kevin Ripka) and 2 on 15 May at Ada Hayden P *Story* (AN).

Fox Sparrow: Last 30 Apr in *Story* (DAk).

Song Sparrow: The first birds of spring were reported 1 Mar at numerous locations statewide (m.ob.). High counts included 55 on 1 Apr at Ada Hayden P *Story* (IBM) and 54 on 18 Apr at Lake Anita SP *Cass* (DAk) and again 22 Apr at Deere Dike *Dubuque* (KJAB).

Lincoln's Sparrow: An early duo was first seen 27 Mar in Ogden *Boone* (DCH) and subsequently seen until 17 Apr. Last: 1 on 23 May along the Upper Iowa R *Winneshiek* (SD).

Swamp Sparrow: Reports increased rapidly in early spring after only 5 in winter. The first birds of spring were observed 1 Mar at Deere Dike *Dubuque* (CK) and reports of 22 on 18 Apr at Lake Anita SP *Cass* (DAk) and 5 May at Green Island WA *Jackson* (TM) were the high.

White-throated Sparrow: Most: 100 on 6 May at Shaver P *Linn* (JE). Last: 2 on 22 May at Effigy Mounds National Monument *Allamakee* (RJT).

Harris's Sparrow: Similar to Swamp Sparrow, reports increased rapidly after the start of the spring season. The high for this spring was 35 on 9 May in *Sioux* (JDJ) and the last bird was seen 19 May at Owego Wetland Complex *Woodbury* (JDJ).

White-crowned Sparrow: Most: 16 on 14 May in *Story* (DAk). Last: 1 on 22 May in *Polk* (AB).

Dark-eyed Junco: Large flocks were observed through mid-Apr before birds started to head north. High counts included 200 on 8 Apr at Chichaqua Bottoms *Polk* (IBM), 116 on 2 Apr at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC), and 115 on 31 Mar along Peggy's Trail *Story* (IBM). The last birds were seen 15 May at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (DP).

Yellow-breasted Chat: Reported in 10 counties east of *Polk* and south of *Johnson* with the exception of a single bird observed 16 May at the Driftless Area NWR *Clayton* (BR).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: First: 1 on 30 Mar at Green Island WA *Jackson* (DAS). Not surprisingly, the high counts came from the north central portion of the state with 80 reported 17 May at Eagle L *Hancock* (DAk) and 65 on 30 Apr at Big Wall L *Wright* (CPL, Riley Henry).

Bobolink: Excepting the first report 30 Apr at Red Feather Prairie *Polk* (DTh), all other reports came from May

mostly statewide.

Eastern Meadowlark: A male was heard singing 1 Mar at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* (KVS) and in *Muscatine* (SN), which tie the second earliest report on record, the same date as the first individual last spring. A total of 12 was also reported 1 Mar at Hendrickson M *Story* (EEO). While identification was confirmed by vocalizations, this count is three times higher than any other count in early Mar. As expected, Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* was a popular location for this species with high counts of 25, 26, and 29, reported 26 Apr, 1 May, and 2 May, respectively (KVS).

Western Meadowlark: The first birds of the spring and of 2018 were seen 1 Mar at Waterworks Prairie P *Johnson* (Dean Hester) and in *Adair* (DAk).

Orchard Oriole: The first birds were observed 30 Apr in *Story* (EM, DAk). A high of 25 was reported 12 May at Saylorville Res *Polk* (KVS).

Baltimore Oriole: First 29 Apr in *Washington* (Gail Heater).

Brown-headed Cowbird: After only 3 reports in winter, spring started off with a bang for this species with 50 reported 1 Mar at Hendrickson M *Story* (EEO). High counts included 800 on 20 Mar at Bays Branch WA *Guthrie* (DAk), 750 on 10 Mar in *Greene* (EEO, MTW), and 525 on 5 Apr in *Franklin* (SSP).

Rusty Blackbird: First: 1 at Hendrickson M *Story* (EEO) and 10 at Jensen M *Madison* (SB), both 1 Mar. An impressive count of 200 was reported 20 Mar at Bays Branch WA *Guthrie* (DAk) with the next highest count of 92 reported 21 Mar at Cone M *Louisa* (LGR, BSc). A single bird reported 28 Apr at Black Hawk P *Black Hawk* (CPL) tied the second latest report on record, and a pair of birds reported 29 Apr at Ada Hayden P *Story* (AN) tied the latest report on record.

Brewer's Blackbird: Numerous reports statewide with the first 8 Mar at Cone M *Louisa* (SN) and last 26 Apr in *Story* (SSP).

Great-tailed Grackle: Reported in 27 counties west of a line from *Wapello* to *Franklin* with the first 5 Mar at Ottumwa P *Wapello* (AS).

Ovenbird: The first bird arrived 1 May at Coralville Res *Johnson* (BCC). Migration peaked 14 May with a high count of 20 at Heery Woods SP *Butler* (CRE).

Worm-eating Warbler: Only 2 reports of this uncommon migrant: 1 on 9 May at Wildcat Den SP *Muscatine* (DG) and 1 on 10 May at Driftless Area NWR *Winneshiek* (BR).

Louisiana Waterthrush: Reported in wooded areas mostly south of Interstate 80 with the first 11 Apr at the Croton Unit of Shimek SF *Lee* (SD). Notable northern reports include a singing male 1 May and 11 May at Greenwood/Ashworth P *Polk* (AB, JB), 2 singing males at Coralville Res *Johnson* 1 May (BCC–details), and an impressive 8 singing males at Stone SP *Woodbury* 11 May (POR, TJL).

Northern Waterthrush: A single bird reported 21 Apr in *Johnson* (JLF) was notable and nearly tied the third earliest report on record. Migration peaked in mid-May with 20 reported 12 May at Bob Shetler RA *Polk* (AB)

and 14 May at Big Marsh WA *Butler* (CRE). A single migrant lingered until 23 May along the Upper Iowa R *Winneshiek* (SD).

Golden-winged Warbler: First: 1 on 30 Apr at Castle Bluffs P *Black Hawk* (AKO). Most: 7 on 13 May at Ledges SP *Boone* (DAk) and 14 May at Heery Woods SP *Butler* (CRE). Last: 1 on 25 May at Brookside P *Story* (DAk).

Blue-winged Warbler: This breeding warbler was first reported 2 May at Cone M *Louisa* (BCC, AM) and at Swiss Valley *Dubuque* (RSp). The northernmost reports are notable: 1 on 8 May at Huston P *Palo Alto* (LAS, JDJ) and 1 on 16 May at Parker's Woods *Cerro Gordo* (RGo).

Black-and-white Warbler: The first birds arrived 20 Apr at Waubonsie SP *Fremont* (WRS, Shari Schwartz). High counts of 15 on 12 May at both Bob Shetler RA *Polk* (AB) and Saylorville Res *Polk* (KVS), and 13 May at Robinson Bird Sanctuary *Black Hawk* (Olivia Wilson), and the last bird was seen 28 May at Lacey-Keosauqua SP *Van Buren* (Caleb Hansen).

Prothonotary Warbler: First reported 29 Apr at Bob Shetler RA *Polk* (CW).

Tennessee Warbler: This common migrant warbler first arrived in *Iowa* 30 Apr at multiple locations (JG, AB, KT Long, JBo). Like many other warblers, migration peaked in mid-May with reports of 55 on 8 May at Lake of Three Fires SP *Taylor* (CL), 45 on 10 May at Walnut Woods SP *Polk* (JG), and 46 on 13 May at Ledges SP *Boone* (DAk). The last bird was seen 31 May in *Story* (SSP).

Orange-crowned Warbler: First: 1 on 20 Apr at Red Rock Res *Marion* (JG). Most: 35 on 10 May at Stone SP *Woodbury* (TJL). Last: 1 on 19 May at Martin Area P *Cherokee* (DAk).

Nashville Warbler: Numerous reports of this common migrant warbler with the first 28 Apr at Deere Dike *Dubuque* (DAS) and last 26 May in *Jefferson* (Isaac Dement).

Connecticut Warbler: Only 6 reports from 4 counties this year, mostly in mid-May: 1 on 18 May at Parker's Woods *Cerro Gordo* (RGo), 1 on 20 May in *Iowa* (JF), 1 on 21 May at Pleasant Creek RA *Linn* (JF), and 1 on 23 May at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (CRE).

Mourning Warbler: Reported in 11 counties east of a line from *Dickinson* to *Polk* with the first 4 May at Parker's Woods *Cerro Gordo* (RGo) and last 22 May at Christopherson Sl *Dickinson* (MHB). Seeing 4 different birds 13 May at Cottonwood RA *Polk* (KVS) was both notable and surprising.

Kentucky Warbler: True to the breeding range of this species in Iowa, reported in 9 counties south of a line from *Polk* to *Johnson* with the first 3 May at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (BCC) and high of 5 on 4 May at the Croton Unit of Shimek SF *Lee* (CRE).

Common Yellowthroat: First: 1 on 30 Apr at Jester P *Polk* (RLC). Most: 35 on 14 May at Heery Woods SP *Butler* (CRE).

Hooded Warbler: After a strong showing in counties north of Interstate 80 last year, this uncommon migrant was reported in only two southern Iowa counties this spring. A territorial pair was reported at the Whitebreast Unit of Stephens SF *Lucas* (MHB, AB, AMJ)

and a single bird was seen at Lacey-Keosauqua SP *Van Buren* (Caleb Hansen–details).

American Redstart: Along with many other migrant warblers, the first bird was seen 30 Apr at Cone M *Louisa* (CRE). The trees were dripping with this species 12 May at Bob Shetler RA *Polk* (AB), where a high of 61 was reported.

Cape May Warbler: A total of 1–3 birds reported in 12 counties in May with the first 8 May at Huston P *Palo Alto* (LAS) and last 22 May at Cheever L *Emmet* (LAS).

Cerulean Warbler: A single bird was seen far away from eastern Iowa 10 May at Stone SP *Plymouth* (TJL). Reported in 6 additional counties in eastern Iowa with the first 5 May at Hanging Rock Woods *Johnson* (MHB).

Northern Parula: One of the first warblers to arrive in the state 20 Apr at the Croton Unit of Shimek SF *Lee* (MHB). A high count of 5 was reported 9 May at the Croton Unit of Shimek SF *Lee* (BCC) and 12 May at Lake Macbride SP *Johnson* (CRE).

Magnolia Warbler: This common migrant warbler made a strong showing this spring with reports in 10 counties beginning 1 May at Coralville Res *Johnson* (BCC). High counts included 20 on 14 May at Heery Woods SP *Butler* (CRE) and 13 on 12 May in Urbandale *Polk* (BE). Last 21 May at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (CRE).

Bay-breasted Warbler: Nine reports from 9 different counties north of *Lucas* with the first 9 May at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO) and last 23 May at Grammar Grove WA *Marshall* (MP).

Blackburnian Warbler: Reports of 1–6 birds mostly from *Polk* and *Johnson* with the first 8 May at Terry Trueblood RA *Johnson* (MHB) and last 22 May at Cheever L *Emmet* (LAS). Reported in only 3 additional counties.

Yellow Warbler: The first migrant arrived 28 Apr in *Jefferson* (TC). High counts included 50 on 9 May at Harmon L *Winnebago* (DAk), 60 on 10 May at Stone SP *Woodbury* (TJL) and 12 May at Cedar L *Linn* (JE), and 70 on 20 May at Bacon Creek P *Woodbury* (RWR, JE, TD).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: First 5 May at Lacey-Keosauqua SP *Van Buren* (KVS) with high counts of 20 on 14 May at Heery Woods SP *Butler* (CRE) and 17 on 13 May at Hickory Hills P *Tama* (CPL, Riley Henry). Last 21 May at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (CRE).

Blackpoll Warbler: The first migrants arrived in *Polk* 2 May at Water Works P (AMJ) and Gray's Lake P (JB). Peak migration reached southern Iowa 8 May at Lake of Three Fires SP *Taylor* (CL) and northern Iowa 20 May at Hottes L *Dickinson* (MHB) with 15 reported at both locations. A lingering individual was reported 31 May at Brookside P *Story* (SSP).

Black-throated Blue Warbler: Singing males were reported 17 May in *Des Moines* (DG) and 19 May at Lacey-Keosauqua SP *Van Buren* (DCP).

Palm Warbler: First: 1 on 25 Apr at Lake Sugema *Van Buren* (BSc). An impressive count of 75 was observed 14 May at Cedar L *Linn* (JE). Last: 1 on 20 May at East Hottes L *Dickinson* (MHB).

Pine Warbler: Reported in 7 counties east of a line from *Cerro Gordo* to *Polk* with the first 23 Apr at Hawkeye

WA *Johnson* (BCC) and last 9 May at the Farmington Unit of Shimek SF *Lee* (Dean Hester).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: Although this species occasionally overwinters in Iowa, winter reports were few and the first bird observed in spring was 1 Mar at Wildcat Den SP *Muscatine* (SN). Peak migration was impressive with multiple counts totaling more than 100 birds: 140 on 9 May at Harmon L *Winnebago* (DAk), 150 on 13 May at Stone SP *Woodbury* (TJL), and 120 on 14 May at Cedar L *Linn* (JE).

Yellow-throated Warbler: Right on time, the first migrant arrived 11 Apr at Shimek SF *Lee* (SD). Birds were reported throughout spring with the last 31 May at Four Mounds *Dubuque* (TM).

PRAIRIE WARBLER: A single bird was first located 13 May at the Croton Unit of Shimek SF *Lee* (*JF–ph, KB). On 28 May, what was presumably the same bird was relocated at the same site (JMc–ph, *CRE).

Black-throated Green Warbler: The first migrant arrived 13 Apr in Cedar Rapids *Linn* (BSc), the third earliest report on record. With the exception of one other report in Apr, most reports came in May with the last 25 May at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (JE).

Canada Warbler: Reports of 1–6 birds throughout May with the first 9 May at Coralville Res *Johnson* (LGR) and last 22 May in *Black Hawk* (AKO).

Wilson's Warbler: The first was reported 2 May at F.W. Kent P *Johnson* (Riley Henry) with the high of 16 on 12 May at the overflow spillway of Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB) and last 23 May along the Upper Iowa R *Winneshiek* (SD).

Summer Tanager: First 29 Apr at Lacey-Keosauqua SP *Van Buren* (TC).

Scarlet Tanager: First 1 May at Gleason-Hubel WA *Harrison* (Neal Ratzlaff).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: The first birds arrived 22 Apr at a picnic area near Saylorville Res *Polk* (Jim Hovey, Pamela Stevenson).

Blue Grosbeak: Reported in 13 counties in May with the first 4 May in Mason City *Cerro Gordo* (CJF) and last 31 May in *Humboldt* (JN).

Indigo Bunting: First: 1 on 30 Apr at Swiss Valley Nature Preserve *Dubuque* (Jayde Babler), in *Jefferson* (TC), and at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (AM). Most: 24 on 19 May at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (MHB).

PAINTED BUNTING: A single male appeared at a feeder in *Pottawattamie* 9 May (*MV–ph).

Lazuli Bunting: A single male was observed 5 May in *Story* (Lloyd Crim–ph *fide* KVS).

Dickcissel: The first birds were observed 30 Apr at Badger Creek RA *Madison* (SB). An impressive count of 56 was reported 30 May at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* (KVS).

Dickcissel, Jefferson, *23 May 2018. Photograph by Julie Johnston, Packwood, IA.*

COMMENT

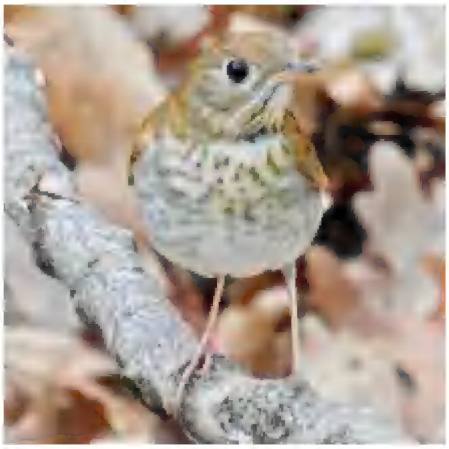
This will be my last spring field report and I'm excited to leave the spring editorship in the very capable hands of Connor Langan of Waterloo, currently a student at Iowa State University and residing in Ames. I've had the pleasure of interacting with Connor through Iowa Young Birders and am both confident in his ability to compile this important piece of our birding history in Iowa and excited for him to have this opportunity. I would like to thank all of you for your reports during my tenure. Your efforts are invaluable for creating a long-term record of birds in Iowa. I'd also like to thank editors Stephen J. Dinsmore and Karen Viste-Sparkman for their patience and careful review of my reports. I'm grateful to the many members of the Records Committee during my tenure for their thorough review of rare birds and for quickly reviewing documentations solicited during my writing so they can be included in the published report. Lastly, I thank Ann Johnson for her endless assistance with all things related to the web database.

CONTRIBUTORS

Danny Akers	DAk	Ames
Gianna Anania	GA	Cumming
Kristen & John Anderson-Bricker	KJAB	eBird reporter
Sharon Bauer	SB	Winterset
Kyle Belcher	KB	Coralville
Dick Bierman	DB	Cherokee
John Bissell	JB	Grimes
Jayden Bowden	JBo	eBird reporter
Aaron Brees	AB	Polk City
Mark Brown	MHB	North Liberty
Iza Bruen-Mornings	IBM	eBird reporter
Bruce Burroughs	BB	Greene
Brandon Caswell	BCC	Marion
Adam Ciha	AC	Hills
Ray Cummins	RLC	Ankeny
Therese Cumminskey	TC	eBird reporter
Diane Dentlinger	DD	Des Moines
Stephen J. Dinsmore	SJD	Ames
Thomas Dougherty	TD	Urbandale
Seth Dudley	SD	eBird reporter
David Eastman	DGE	Cedar Falls
Chris Edwards	CRE	Solon
Jesse Ellis	JE	eBird reporter
Bery Engebretson	BE	Urbandale
Carolyn Fischer	CJF	Mason City
Karl Fliris	KF	New Hampton
James Forde	JF	Cedar Rapids
Sylvia Fredericks	SF	Fairfield
James Fuller	JLF	Iowa City
Rita Goranson	RGo	Mason City
David Griffin	DG	Muscatine
Tyler Harms	TMH	Ames
Doug Harr	DCH	Ogden
Candace Havely	CH	Waterloo
Rick Hollis	RJH	North Liberty
Bill Huser	BH	South Sioux City, NE
Ann Johnson	AMJ	Norwalk
Tom Johnson	TNJ	Centerville
Joe Jungers	JDJ	Hospers
Matt Kenne	MCK	Algona
Craig Kruse	CK	eBird reporter
Connor Langan	CPL	Waterloo
Corey Lange	CL	eBird reporter
Peter Lowther	PL	Chicago, IL
Tucker Lutter	TJL	Bronson
James McCoy	JMc	Iowa City
Andrew Meiborg	AM	eBird reporter
Tony Moline	TM	eBird reporter
Larry Moss	LM	Bellingham, WA
Erik Murray	EM	eBird reporter

Anna Nesterovich	AN	eBird reporter
Jacob Newton	JN	Ottosen
Susan Nixon	SN	Muscatine
Alan and Karen Orr	AKO	Cedar Falls
Shane Patterson	SSP	Ames
Jason Paulios	JPa	eBird reporter
Pete Pedersen	PP	eBird reporter
Diana Pesek	DP	Cedar Rapids
Mark Pettit	MPe	eBird reporter
Bruce and Linda Plakke	BLP	eBird reporter
Don Poggensee	DoP	Ida Grove
Diane Porter	DCP	Fairfield
Linda Quinn	LQ	Iowa City
Colleen Radebaugh	CR	Perry
Kris & Craig Rash	KCR	eBird reporter
Thomas Reardon	TR	Council Bluffs
Billy Reiter-Marolf	BR	New Albin
Mark Rolfes	MDR	Solon
Dan Rose	DR	eBird reporter
Jim Rose	JR	Mason City
Rex Rundquist	RWR	Sioux City
Jordan Satler	JS	eBird reporter
Richard Sayles	RAS	Blue Grass
William Scheible	BSc	Cedar Rapids
Lee Schoenewe	LAS	Spencer
David Shealer	DAS	Dubuque
Ross Silcock	WRS	Tabor
Paul Skrade	PDBS	Decorah
Robert Spahn	RSp	eBird reporter
Tommy Stone	TGS	Waterloo
Ed Thelen	ET	Spirit Lake
Dennis Thompson	DTh	Johnston
RJ Thompson	RJT	eBird reporter
Monica Verros	MV	Sergeant Bluff
Karen Viste-Sparkman	KVS	Des Moines
Gerald Von Ehwegen	GLV	Sioux City
Bob Walton	BW	eBird reporter
Matt Wetrich	MTW	Jefferson
Clayton Will	CW	Madrid
Rick Wright	RW	eBird reporter
Hank Zaletel	HZ	Nevada
Walt Zuurdeeg	WMZ	Davenport

1517 Stafford Avenue, Ames, Iowa, 50010 (tyharms@gmail.com)



Veery, Hartman Reserve, Black Hawk, *9 May 2018. Photograph by Connor Langan, Waterloo, IA.*

Eastern Bluebird, Cerro Gordo, *4 Mar 2018. Photograph by Bruce G. McKee, Mason City, IA.*

Report of the Records Committee for 2017

Paul Hertzel

There were a handful of important changes to the Iowa state list in 2017. In April, a White-tailed Kite found in Howard County by Larry Reis became the 429th species on the Iowa checklist. It was quickly followed by the state's second occurrence when Ari Rice found an individual in Decatur County in late May. The checklist then lost a species when the American Ornithological Society (AOS) reclassified Thayer's Gull as a subspecies of Iceland Gull. Its scientific name became *Larus glaucoides thayeri.* In August, the checklist returned to 429 species when Stephen J. Dinsmore found the state's first Bar-tailed Godwit, *Limosa lapponica,* at the north end of Red Rock Reservoir in Marion County.

The AOS made several other name changes affecting the Iowa checklist. Yellow-breasted Chat was removed from consideration as a warbler, and placed into a newly created family, *Icteriidae*, where it is the only genus and species in the family, *Icteria virens*. In addition, the eleven species listed below acquired changes in their scientific names.

Snow Goose	~~*Chen caerulescens*~~	→ *Anser caerulescens*
Ross's Goose	~~*Chen rossii*~~	→ *Anser rossi*
Garganey	~~*Anas querquedula*~~	→ *Spatula querquedula*
Blue-winged Teal	~~*Anas discors*~~	→ *Spatula discors*
Cinnamon Teal	~~*Anas cyanoptera*~~	→ *Spatula cyanoptera*
Northern Shoveler	~~*Anas clypeata*~~	→ *Spatula clypeata*
Gadwall	~~*Anas strepera*~~	→ *Mareca strepera*
Eurasian Wigeon	~~*Anas penelope*~~	→ *Mareca penelope*
American Wigeon	~~*Anas americana*~~	→ *Mareca americana*
Northern Harrier	~~*Circus cyaneus*~~	→ *Circus hudsonius*
Northern Shrike	~~*Lanius excubitor*~~	→ *Lanius borealis*

The only change to a common name of a species on the Iowa checklist was the removal of the space in Le Conte's Sparrow so that it appears LeConte's Sparrow, "to conform to the generally accepted spelling of the name of entomologist John Lawrence LeConte, for whom the species was named" (Chesser, 2017). Other actions taken by the AOS resulted in a few changes to the internal sequencing of genera and species within families, and reordering of the families themselves.

At the annual meeting of the IOU Records Committee, held 4 November

2017 at the Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge, changes were made to the status of two species on the checklist. Harlequin Duck was changed from "Accidental" status to "Casual" status, and Little Blue Heron was changed from "Regular" status to "Casual" status. The assignment of status is based on the number of records occurring during the previous ten years. A "Regular" species is one in which there are records in 8, 9, or 10 of the most recent 10 years. A "Casual" species is one in which there are records in from 3 to 8 years, and an "Accidental" species is one in which there are records in 3 or fewer years. The committee also discussed the status of Ruffed Grouse and Ferruginous Hawk, allowing both to remain "Regular," and Black-headed Gull, allowing it to remain "Accidental."

During the November meeting, members also discussed a subtle point about the functioning of the Records Committee following a 2016 documentation of a presumed hybrid gull reviewed by the Committee. In that review, some members expressed the opinion that the committee's function ought to be limited to the review of pure species. This opinion is not clearly expressed in the Operating Procedures Manual that guides the committee, and so it was suggested that the word "species" be inserted into the first line of the Manual section defining the committee's principal functions:

Function

- Evaluate reports of rare and unusual bird ***species*** (insert) in Iowa, including feedback to contributors and publication of an annual report.

This change was framed as a motion and the motion carried.

2017 RECORDS

A total of 44 records were reviewed by the Committee in 2017 with 37 of these records accepted and 7 not accepted. The Committee appreciates the efforts of those who document Iowa's bird life and regards each record as deserving thoughtful, careful treatment in its review.

Each record reviewed is assigned a six-digit number (year and sequence number) that is included in this report for future reference. Records are classified as follows: A = Accepted (-S = specimen, -P = photograph, -R = recording, -D = documentation) and NA = Not Accepted. In order to be accepted, a record must receive 7 votes on the initial review or more than 5 votes on a subsequent review. The subcategories A-S, A-P, and A-R reflect the majority's opinion and indicate that physical evidence supports the identification. References to *IBL* are the page of the Field Reports or a special note in *Iowa Bird Life* where the record is cited. Published notes and previous citations may contain more details.

2017 RECORDS ACCEPTED

Black-bellied Whistling Duck: 2 May in Council Bluffs *Pottawattamie*. Four individuals had been present for perhaps 2 weeks (*2017-19*, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 87:108).

Eurasian Wigeon: 17-18 Apr at Owego Wetlands *Woodbury* (*2017-04*, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 87:108).

King Rail: 5 Jun in rural *Ringgold* (*2017-21*, **A-P** 6-1, 7-0, *IBL* 87:149); 28-31 Aug at Green Island WA *Jackson*, adults and juvenile (*2017-24*, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 88:14).

Bar-tailed Godwit: An adult female 5-7 Aug Red Rock Res *Marion* is the first for Iowa (*2017-27*, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 88:15, cover, Dinsmore 2018).

Ruff: 26-27 Apr at Cone M *Louisa* (*2017-10*, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 87:112); 5-6 Aug Red Rock Res *Marion* (*2017-23*, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 88:16).

Little Gull, Runnells WA, Polk, *14 October 2017. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.*

Little Gull: A juvenile 28-29 Sep at Red Rock Res *Marion* (*2017-25*, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 88:18); a second cycle individual 14 Oct at Runnells WA *Polk* (*2017-28*, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 88:18).

California Gull: An adult on 8 Jan at Morningstar Airport pits *Polk* (*2017-01*, **A-D** 7-0, *IBL* 87:70); an adult on 31 May at Marble L *Dickinson* (*2017-40*, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 87:114); an adult on 16 Oct at Lock & Dam 14 *Scott* (*2017-30*, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 88:18); an adult or third winter individual on 23 Oct at Pool 15 *Scott* (*2017-31*, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 88:18).

Great Black-backed Gull: A juvenile on 30 Nov–2 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (*2017-41*, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 88:18); a juvenile on 14 Dec 2017–4 Jan 2018 at Red Rock Res *Marion* was most likely the same individual as in the previous record (*2017-43*, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 88:70, 81).

Yellow-billed Loon: One on 7 Nov at Clear L *Cerro Gordo* is the 5th record for the state (*2017-34*, **A-P** 6-1, 7-0, *IBL* 88:19, Lucas 2018).

Wood Stork: One during 29 Jun–4 Jul at Dunbar Sl *Greene* is the 3rd record for the state (*2017-22*, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 87:153, cover, Harr 2017).

Neotropic Cormorant: A first-alternate individual on 25 May at Ingham-High L *Emmet* (*2017-39*, **A-D** 7-0, *IBL* 87:114).

Brown Pelican: Three records during the month of May undoubtedly involved the same individual as it worked its way from Red Rock Res to Hawkeye WA and finally the Mississippi River: 2–7 May at Red Rock Res *Marion* (*2017-14*, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 87:114, 115); 17 May at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (*2017-15,* **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 87:114); 23 May at Credit Island P *Scott* (*2017-16,* **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 87:114)

Glossy Ibis: One in a small group of White-faced Ibis 21-24 Apr at Trumbull L *Clay* (*2017-09*, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 87:115).

Black Vulture: 21 Oct in rural *Fayette* (*2017-32*, **A-D** 7-0, *IBL* 88:20).

White-tailed Kite: One on 18 Apr near Cardinal M in *Howard* is the first for the state of Iowa (*2017-05*, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 87:115,116, Reis 2017); 23 May at Sand Creek WA *Decatur* is the state's second record (*2017-38*, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 87:115, Johnson 2017).

Swallow-tailed Kite: 15 Sep in rural *Harrison* is the 10th modern record for Iowa (*2017-26*, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 88:20).

Gyrfalcon: A juvenile dark intermediate morph on 29 Nov at Saratoga *Howard* (*2017-36*, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 88:27, Shackleton 2018); 10 Dec in rural Sac (*2017-42*, **A-D** 7-0, *IBL* 88:74).

Fish Crow, Saylorville Res, Polk, *2 April 2017. Photograph by Jay Gilliam, Norwalk, IA.*

Fish Crow: One during 2–9 Apr at Saylorville Res *Polk* is the 6th accepted record for Iowa and only the second in the central part of the state (*2017-08*, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 87:123).

Common Raven: An individual captured by a trail camera 24 Oct at Broken Kettle Grasslands *Plymouth* is Iowa's seventh accepted record (*2017-35*, **A-P** 6-1, 7-0, *IBL* 88:29).

Lark Bunting: 10 Feb in a Centerville yard *Appanoose* (*2017-02*, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 87:75).

Prairie Warbler, Stephens SF, Monroe, *14 May 2017. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*

Prairie Warbler: 6 May at Brookside P *Story* (*2017-07*, **A-D** 6-1, 6-1, *IBL* 87:128); 7 May–8 Jun near Stephens SF *Monroe* (*2017-17*, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 87:121, 128).

Western Tanager: 30 Apr–3 May at Jester P *Polk* (*2017-11*, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 87:122, 130); 1-3 May in Ames *Story* (*2017-12*, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 87:130, cover); 3 May at Saylorville Visitor Center *Polk* (*2017-13*, **A-D** 7-0, *IBL* 87:130); 7 May in a Centerville yard *Appanoose* (*2017-18*, **A-P** 7-0, *IBL* 87:130).

2017 RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED

Mottled Duck: A split vote in the first round put the record into heavy discussion centered on ambiguity in the wing description. Eventually, six reviewers agreed the narrative was not clear enough to be certain about what the observer was describing (*2017-44,* **NA** 4-3, 1-6).

Arctic Tern: The description failed to eliminate from consideration the more expected Forster's Tern or Common Tern (*2017-06,* **NA** 0-7).

Wood Stork: The description was not detailed enough to distinguish the bird from other large white birds with black wingtips (*2017-03* **NA** 0-7).

Glossy Ibis: With inconclusive photos, the documentation needed a more thorough written argument to make the case for this extremely difficult identification (*2017-33* **NA** 1-6).

Glossy Ibis: Although the documentation contained a single photo, it did not capture the features necessary to confirm the identification, and several reviewers actually thought it more likely showed a White-faced Ibis (*2017-37* **NA** 1-6).

Black-billed Magpie: Details described after a very brief view from a moving vehicle were not convincing for a bird this far out of range (*2017-29* **NA** 1-6).

Prairie Warbler: Most committee members felt the documentation did not go far enough in separating the individual from several other possible species (*2017-20,* **NA** 3-4).

The recording and preserving of the Iowa ornithological record takes the critical actions of people such as the 39 who provided documentations for the records contained in this report. Listed along with the number of documentations submitted in 2017, they are: 9 Aaron Brees, 6 Stephen J. Dinsmore, 6 James Forde, 4 Mark Brown, 4 Chris Edwards, 4 Tyler Harms, 4 Ann Johnson, 4 Thomas Johnson, 3 John Bissell, 3 Jay Gilliam, 3 Douglas Harr, 2 Danny Akers, 2 Ray Cummins, 2 Paul Roisen, 2 Paul Skrade, 2 Clayton Will, 1 Ethan Brown, 1 Brandon Caswell, 1 Melissa Cory, 1 Carolyn Fischer, 1 Donald Fish, 1 Malcolm Gold, 1 Emma Johnson, 1 Betty Lucas, 1 Jim Murdock, 1 Eric Ollie, 1 Rita Reed, 1 Larry Reis, 1 Ari Rice, 1 Jim Sinclair, 1 Ryan Shackleton, 1 Daniel Smith, 1 Patrick Swanson, 1 Timothy Swartz, 1 Robert Walton, 1 Dan Watkins, 1 Paul Weihe, 1 D. Wick, 1 Hank Zaletel. The IOU sincerely appreciates the efforts of these people in helping discover, preserve, and publish the record of Iowa's dynamic avian presence.

Many records submitted to the IOU are accompanied by photos, which is an increasingly common and helpful trend in the culture of recording contemporary bird life. Even a snapshot or a recording picked up on a smartphone may provide just enough corroboration for acceptance. Sometimes photos are marginal, but still can be useful as a reference during a second round discussion, especially in eliminating similar species. A minority of documentations now

have no photos, videos, or sound recordings to support them. These written documentations are more difficult to evaluate because without any accompanying hard evidence, they require considerable detail and logic to be accepted for use by future researchers. In these cases, the committee can only consider the picture painted in words describing what was seen and how it was identified. Therefore, reviewers place great value on written notes taken at the time of observation; that is, careful details of the event recorded prior to consultation with a field guide or colleagues after the bird is out of view. This level of detail is seldom seen in listserv posts or the routine comments submitted with seasonal field reports. A summary of size, structure, and behavior, along with a description of the event itself and a consideration of any similar species can make all the difference between an accepted report and a report not accepted. The committee only evaluates the evidence that is submitted. Its purpose is not to pass judgment on the validity of a particular sighting or the birding skills of a reporter but rather on the evidence provided.

Committee members for 2017 with years in which their terms expire were: Jay Gilliam (2017), Ann Johnson (2018), Bill Scheible (2019), Karen Viste-Sparkman (2020), Paul Skrade (2021), Mark Brown (2022), and Paul Hertzel (secretary, appointed by the committee). Doug Harr was nominated by the committee and subsequently appointed by the Board of Directors to fill a regular term beginning in 2018 and replacing Jay Gilliam whose term expired at the end of the year.

LITERATURE CITED

Chesser, R.T., et al. 2017. Fifty-eighth supplement to the American Ornithological Society's Checklist of North American Birds. *The Auk* 134(3):751-773.

Dinsmore, S. J. 2018. First Record of a Bar-tailed Godwit for Iowa. *Iowa Bird Life* 88:1-2.

Harr, D.C. 2017. Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*) in Greene County. *Iowa Bird Life* 97:142-143.

Johnson, A. 2017. Second Record of White-tailed Kite for Iowa. *Iowa Bird Life* 87:102.

Lucas, B.V. and C. J. Fischer 2018. Yellow-billed Loon at Clear Lake. *Iowa Bird Life* 88:3-4.

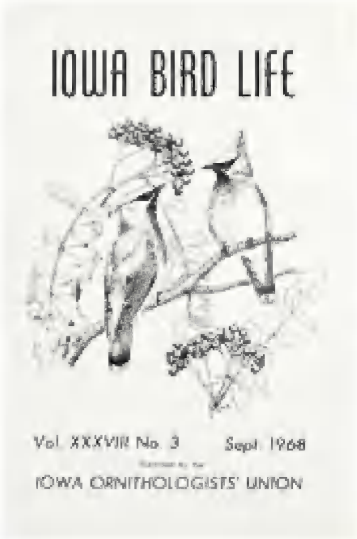
Reis, L. 2017. First Record of White-tailed Kite for Iowa. *Iowa Bird Life* 87:101.

Shackleton, R. 2018. Gyrfalcon in Howard County. *Iowa Bird Life* 88:5.

1432 E. State Street, Mason City, IA 50401 (phertzel@rconnect.com)

Fifty Years Ago in *Iowa Bird Life*

James J. Dinsmore



Half of the September 1968 issue of *Iowa Bird Life* consists of an article in a continuing series on the birds of the Davenport area by Thomas J. Morrissey. The first two in previous issues of *Iowa Bird Life* covered waterfowl. The present article covers 16 species of hawks, falcons, and vultures, again with line drawings by E. W. Steffen illustrating 12 of those species. As in previous articles, Morrissey describes his experiences with and observations of these birds. The article provides a good basis for comparisons of populations of a number of species between the 1940s and current times. Morrissey commented that he did not see any Turkey Vultures in the Davenport area although others did report seeing them in eastern Iowa. He noted that Bald Eagles were regular in fall with some wintering along open water areas but he made no mention of nesting and he saw far fewer in winter than are found currently. He also noted several Swainson's Hawk nests.

The fall meeting was held in mid-September at Springbrook State Park near Guthrie Center. After gathering on Saturday afternoon, the evening program was on "The Tundra World" by Dr. Milton Weller of Iowa State University (see *IBL* 87:60-61). Current IOU member and then President Robert Nicholson presided over the meeting. A total of 81 people attended the meeting, and they saw 78 bird species on the Sunday morning field trips. Birding apparently was slow as only four shorebird, three warbler, and six sparrow species were found.

Some of the more interesting finds in the field reports were an immature Piping Plover and several Least Tern nests at DeSoto NWR, several reports of Red-breasted Nuthatches in August, a poor season for Say's Phoebes (!), and reports of Lark Buntings near Marcus in Cherokee County.

The issue also includes obituaries for former IOU President John Paul Moore and Martin L. Grant. Several book reviews including one for the last volumes of the Bent life history series, for many years the "bible" for natural history information on North American birds, and an IOU membership directory conclude the issue.

646 Mallory Hill Drive, The Villages, FL 32162 (oldcoot@iastate.edu)

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES (renewable yearly): Fledgling (students) $20 (electronic only), Institutional (domestic) $30, Institutional (foreign) $45, Goldfinch $25 (electronic only), Bluebird $35, Oriole $50, Egret $75, Osprey $100, Bald Eagle $250, and Peregrine Falcon $500+. Membership dues entitle members to receive *Iowa Bird Life* quarterly and to vote and hold office in the Union. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Join, give a gift, or manage your membership on-line at <www.iowabirds.org>. Paper forms for new members and renewals may be mailed to the treasurer. Back issues of *Iowa Bird Life* are available from Membership Coordinator Cecille Thompson 7503 Wildflower Ct, Johnson, IA 50131 (cecillethompson@gmail.com).

INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS: Original manuscripts, notes, letters (indicate if for publication), editorials, and other material relating to birds in Iowa should be sent by e-mail attachment in Microsoft Word to editor at vistesparrow@gmail.com. Research manuscripts should include abstract, introduction, study area, methods, results, discussion, and literature cited sections and will be sent for peer review. Accepted manuscripts will be published promptly depending on space available.

Photos and graphics: Submit only original, unsized, and unenhanced photos in your camera's JPEG (*.jpg) format. Photos must be 300 dpi at the size they will be printed (6-1/2" wide by 6-1/2" high for the cover and various smaller sizes inside), so setting your camera to its highest possible resolution is recommended. The editor will do any resizing and enhancing required because any previous adjustments to the photos may make them unusable. Submit photos and graphics as e-mail attachments. Photos and captions should be emailed to IBLPhotos@iowabirds.org.

Deadlines for submission are January 1 for winter issue (Vol. xx[1]), April 1 for spring issue [2], July 1 for summer issue [3],October 1 for fall issue [4]. Send seasonal field reports to field reports editors by deadlines listed on inside front cover.

I.O.U. WEB SITE: <www.iowabirds.org>, Ann Johnson, Webmaster

IOWA RBA: John Bissell (john.annabissell@gmail.com)

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT: Deadline for receipt of reports is 15 January. For forms and instructions, contact Christopher J. Caster, 1813 Liberty Lane, Coralville, IA 52241 (cjcaster@q.com).

BIRD SIGHTINGS: Subscribe at <www.iowabirds.org>

ADDRESS CHANGES: Update your on-line profile at <www.iowabirds.org> or send address and e-mail changes to Membership Coordinator Cecille Thompson, 7503 Wildflower Ct., Johnston, IA 50131 (cecillethompson@gmail.com).

FRONT COVER PHOTO: Burrowing Owl, *Humboldt*, 22 May 2018. Photograph by Bruce G. McKee, Mason City, IA.

BACK COVER PHOTO: Yellow-breasted Chat, *Lucas*, 6 May 2018. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA .

LAYOUT: Douglas Chapman, Sioux Falls, SD
PRINTER: Larson Printing, Mason City, IA

CONTENTS

Territorial Behavior of a Burrowing Owl
in Northwestern Humboldt County, Iowa in May 2018
by *Jacob Newton* 89

My Great Horned Owl Spring
by *Julie Johnston* 95

Field Reports–Spring 2018
by *Tyler M. Harms* 100

Report of the Records Committee for 2017
by *Paul Hertzel* 134

Fifty Years Ago in *Iowa Bird Life*
by *James J. Dinsmore* 140

IOWA BIRD LIFE

IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

Fall 2018 . Volume 88 . Number 4

IOWA BIRD LIFE

The Iowa Ornithologists' Union, founded in 1923, encourages interest in the identification, study, and protection of birds in Iowa and seeks to unite those who have these interests in common. *Iowa Bird Life* is a quarterly publication of the Union.

OFFICERS OF THE IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION (Dates indicate end of current term):
President: *Francis L. Moore* (2019), 336 Fairfield St, Waterloo, IA 50703-1628 (flmoore@forbin.net)
Vice President: *Pip Fisher* (2019), 14172 NW 130th Ave, Madrid, IA 50156 (pip@pipfish.com)
Secretary: *Sharon Bauer* (2020), 519 N 4th Ave, Winterset, IA 50273 (sbauer@mchsi.com)
Treasurer: *Mary Beth Hunt* (2020), 1201 High Avenue West, Oskaloosa, IA 52577 (mbh@mahaska.org)

DIRECTORS: *Diane Dentlinger* (2019), *Kevin Murphy* (2019), *Curt Nelson* (2020), *Dennis Thompson* (2020), *Eric Ollie* (2020).

JOURNAL STAFF:
Editor: *Karen Viste-Sparkman*, 3925 Hillcrest Drive, Des Moines, IA 50310 (vistesparrow@gmail.com)
Christmas Bird Count Editor: *Christopher J. Caster,* 1813 Liberty Lane, Coralville, IA 52241 (cjcaster@q.com)
Field Reports Editors (Enter seasonal data at <www.iowabirds.org>):
Winter (Dec, Jan, Feb; deadline 3 March): *Francis L. Moore*, 336 Fairfield Street, Waterloo, IA 50703 (flmoore@forbin.net)
Spring (Mar, Apr, May; deadline 3 June): *Connor Langan,* 4400 Hoff Road, Waterloo, IA 50701 (clangan16@gmail.com)
Summer (Jun, Jul; deadline 3 August): *Jim Dinsmore*, 646 Mallory Hill Drive, The Villages, FL 32162 (oldcoot@iastate.edu)
Fall (Aug, Sept, Oct, Nov; deadline 3 December): *Brandon Caswell*, 680 S 22nd St, Marion, IA 52302 (brandon.caswell83@gmail.com)

STANDING COMMITTEES AND CHAIRPERSONS:
Library/Historical: *Hank Zaletel* (2018), 1928 6th Street, Nevada, IA 50201 (madowl@midiowa.net); *Candace Havely* (2020)
Membership: *Cecille Thompson* Membership Coordinator (N/A); *Karen Disbrow* (2019); *Douglas Harr* (2019); *Eric Ollie* (2020); *Matt Stephenson* (2018)
Projects: *Billy Reiter-Marolf* (2019), 1674 Sunrise Ct, New Albin, IA 52160 (wreiterm@gmail.com); *Joe Jungers* (2020); *Coady Lundy* (2021); *Richard Sayles* (2022)
Publications: *Ann M. Johnson*, 5362 120th Avenue, Norwalk, IA 50211 (aj@hologrambirds.com); *John Bissell*; *Karen Viste-Sparkman; Kay Niyo* (2023)
Records: *Paul Hertzel* (Secretary, appointed by committee), 1432 E State St., Mason City, IA 50401 (phertzel@rconnect.com); *Ann Johnson* (2018); *William Scheible* (2019); *Karen Viste-Sparkman* (2020); *Paul Skrade* (2021); *Mark Brown* (2022); *Doug Harr* (2023)

Copyright 2018 Iowa Ornithologists' Union (ISSN 0021-0455), All rights reserved.

Update from the Publications Committee

Ann Johnson, Chair

With the publication of this issue, Vol. 88 Issue 4, the special effort undertaken by the Publications Committee to get *Iowa Bird Life* back on schedule comes to an end. Although we still have a bit of a push to be completely back on track, the editor will certainly be relieved to be back to publishing a quarterly journal.

This has been a challenging project. Thanks to all the authors and contributors who worked hard to get their material ready for publication so that we could move on to the next issue. A special thanks to Doug Chapman, IOU member from Sioux Falls, SD, who offered his time and expertise to layout the last three issues of Volume 88 and the second issue of Volume 89. Without his help we would not have seen the end for some time.

So where are we going forward? Challenges remain to get a quality publication done quarterly. We have identified two specific issues: 1) time it takes to compile a seasonal field report with the advent of an incredible amount of reporting through eBird to sort through to add to what our members report and 2) receiving content of interest to the membership for publication.

The first issue was addressed at a meeting of the field reports editors where we brainstormed some ideas to make this go a bit faster and not be overwhelmed by thousands of records in an Excel spreadsheet. Hopefully some of the tricks shared will make this process go a bit faster.

Getting content is always an issue. The goal is to have so many articles in the pipeline that choices must be made for each issue rather than the current problem of waiting for enough content to make a journal.

- Members may always contribute articles about birding a favorite area. Paul Hertzel has agreed to help with map creation so write up an area and contact him for help with maps.
- The IOU has several newer members who are very active birders. Find one of them, interview them, and write a "Meet an Iowa Birder" article.
- Do you like to read? Rick Hollis has volunteered to be the book review coordinator and is always looking for someone to review a new book.
- Brian Peer has just been added to the Publications Committee and will serve as liaison to the Projects Committee to elicit articles on research being done on Iowa's birds, especially from those who have been funded by our project grants.

As always, if you have ideas for *Iowa Bird Life*, contact the editor or anyone on the committee.

Field Reports—Summer 2018

James J. Dinsmore

James J. Dinsmore

This was a fairly typical summer. June was wetter than normal, July drier, and with the usual series of severe thunderstorms and a few tornadoes, the weather was about what one expects for summer in Iowa. No new species or nesting species were reported and only one Accidental species, Parasitic Jaeger, was reported. The jaeger and a Lesser Black-backed Gull were Iowa's first summer records for those species.

WEATHER

June was hot and very wet. Temperatures averaged 73.0°F, 3.3°F above normal and tying three other years as the 10th warmest June in 146 years of records. Above average temperatures were recorded on most days throughout the month. Notable highs were 99°F at Little Sioux on 17 June, 98°F at Donnellson on 19 June, and 98°F at Logan on 29 June. The high of 65°F at Sioux Center on 21 June was 20°F below normal.

June rainfall averaged 7.53 inches, 2.53 inches above average, four inches more than in 2017, and the tenth wettest June on record. Severe thunderstorms were reported on 18 days in June with numerous reports of heavy rain, high winds, hail, and a few tornadoes. These included storms from 7 through 10 June in northeastern Iowa with flooding in Floyd and Mitchell counties, in southern Iowa on 10 June and central Iowa on 11 June, widespread storms with flash flooding from Sheldon to Ames on 14 June with 4.25 inches of rain in Ames, 5.5 inches of rain in Council Bluffs on 19 June, 4.6 inches of rain in Sioux Center on 25 and 26 June, and 10 inches of rain in Ankeny on 30 June–1 July. Few areas of the state escaped at least some severe weather. Despite those storms, drought conditions continued in the southern third of Iowa, especially in the southeastern corner.

July temperatures averaged 73.1°F, 0.5°F below normal and tied for the 50th coolest July on record. After receiving above-average temperatures in mid-July topped by 101°F at Lamoni on 13 July, it was cool for much of the rest of July with overnight lows often dropping into the upper 50s. The lowest temperature was 48°F on 27 and 28 July at Sheldon and Stanley in O'Brien County and Waukon in Allamakee County.

July rainfall averaged 3.36 inches, 1.14 inches below normal and similar to the July average for 2017. It was the 56th driest July in 146 years of records. After record rainfalls on 30 June and 1 July and additional storms on 4 July, rainfall abated somewhat. From 12 through 18 July a series of thunderstorms brought rain to much of Iowa including southwestern Iowa on the 18th. Starting with the storms

of 4 July, severe weather was reported on five days including straight-line winds in Dickinson County on the 14th. The worst storms were on 19 July when at least 12 tornadoes were reported including EF-3 tornadoes at Marshalltown and Pella and an EF-2 tornado at Bondurant. Along with hail and high winds, those storms caused extensive damage. Overall, only northern Iowa experienced above-average rainfall during July, and parts of southern Iowa continued with drought conditions, especially in Davis and Appanoose counties. At the end of July, drought conditions covered 23% of Iowa, down from 67% at this time in 2017.

BIRDS OF SUMMER

Habitat Conditions

Weather plays an important role in habitat conditions. This summer Iowa experienced relatively average weather patterns without any extensive flooding or drought conditions to disrupt breeding success over large areas. Although June was wetter than normal and July somewhat drier, the weather was fairly typical of an Iowa summer and overall habitat conditions should have been good for most nesting species.

As has been true for a number of decades, the status of various federal farm programs affects millions of acres of Iowa land and the birds that nest on or near them. A new farm bill was passed in December 2018 which included continuation or enhancement of a number of programs that are important in providing wildlife habitat. Among these were provisions calling for increasing the acreage in CRP, the first increase in a number of years. As this was being written, it was unclear how this bill would directly affect various conservation programs in Iowa.

Earlier this year the Soap Creek-Stephens Forest Bird Conservation Area (BCA) in southeastern Iowa was dedicated as Iowa's 24th Bird Conservation Area. Located in Wapello, Monroe, Davis, and Appanoose counties, the BCA includes some 146,000 acres of savanna, grasslands, and woodlands and provides nesting and migration habitat for numerous species including Northern Bobwhite, Eastern Meadowlark, Henslow's Sparrow, Red-headed Woodpecker, Barn Owl, Kentucky Warbler, Wood Thrush, and Acadian Flycatcher. Like previous BCAs, the Soap Creek-Stephens Forest BCA is centered on a core of publicly owned lands including Lake Wapello State Park and Soap Creek and Eldon wildlife areas, and surrounded by large areas of private land.

The recent Monarch butterfly population decline has led to great interest in providing more habitat for the Monarch and other pollinating species. To date most of that habitat has been in small, often isolated patches that are of limited value for most bird species. However, this interest will probably lead to some cooperative efforts between conservation groups and presumably will lead to some larger blocks of habitat beneficial to both birds and pollinators.

Breeding Species

Among breeding species, there were few reports of nesting waterfowl with Redheads nesting at two sites in northwestern Iowa and Ruddy Ducks in Worth County of most interest. Red-necked and Western grebes each were found nesting at one site. Virginia Rail broods were found in Franklin and Pocahontas counties,

and a Sora brood was in Franklin County. Sandhill Cranes continued to do well although it appeared that cranes may have had poor nesting success this past summer, something that is to be expected to happen at least occasionally.

The colonies of Double-crested Cormorants and American White Pelicans on the Clinton spoil islands were again active as was the Ring-billed Gull colony at Meinking Marsh. Least Terns again nested at the power plant at MidAmerican ponds but no Piping Plovers were reported this summer. No good evidence was presented of Black Terns nesting at Trumbull Lake where they nested last year but Forster's Terns apparently did nest. Besides the usual pairs in the Des Moines area and in Ottumwa, a third pair of Mississippi Kites nested in Clarke County this summer. Some strenuous field work led to the discovery of seven Louisiana Waterthrush territories and at least several fledged young at Waubonsie State Park in Fremont County.

With the departure of several personnel at the Iowa DNR, there was less monitoring of several species that have been closely monitored for many years. Ospreys had a record number of active nests but nesting success was lower than in recent years and Peregrine Falcons had a fairly good nesting season. Bald Eagles seemed to have continued good nesting success throughout Iowa.

Range changes

It was a good year for several species typically found in southern Iowa such as Northern Bobwhite, Carolina Wren, and Northern Mockingbird. All were reported more often than usual and in greater numbers further north than usual. Blue Grosbeaks continued to be found in new areas and are well on their way to being found statewide. Two reports of birds that appeared to be Spotted Towhees add to the evidence of that species possibly nesting in northwestern Iowa.

Long associated with eastern and especially northeastern Iowa, Red-shouldered Hawks and Pileated Woodpeckers have been slowly but steadily expanding their ranges in forested areas of Iowa. Red-shouldered Hawks are now found over much of the eastern third of Iowa and also south-central Iowa (*fide* SJD). Pileated Woodpeckers are found over much of the eastern half of Iowa and also along the Missouri River with recent reports as far north as Woodbury County.

Migrants

As usual, a few late migrant Olive-sided, Yellow-bellied, and Alder flycatchers were found in early June. Other late migrants were Black-and-white, Mourning, Tennessee, and Black-throated Blue warblers. Compared to recent summers, fewer American White Pelicans were reported with no really large flocks reported. Shorebird migration seemed much reduced this summer with fewer late migrants in June and generally fewer and later arriving birds in July. No really large flocks of normally common species like Lesser Yellowlegs, Pectoral Sandpiper, or Least Sandpiper were noted this summer. Early fall migrants included Least Flycatchers and a Chestnut-sided Warbler in July.

Unusual Species

One Accidental species (Parasitic Jaeger) and four Casual species (Black-

bellied Whistling-Duck, California Gull, Little Blue Heron, and Prairie Warbler) were found this summer, about average for the season. A hybrid Black-headed Gull x Ring-billed Gull was found in the same place where a similar (same?) bird was found in 2013. This bird's genetic history may trace back to the pair of Black-headed Gulls found nearby in 1994 (see Dinsmore 2013). Other unusual birds found this summer include American Black Duck, Common Merganser, Eared Grebe, White-winged Dove, Ruffed Grouse, Black-necked Stilt, Laughing Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Merlin, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Pine Siskin, and Red Crossbill.

SPECIES DATA

All CAPS = Accidental or Casual species, * = documented. County names are in italics. Full names of contributors are at the end of the article. Abbreviations used: **ad** = adult, **alt** = alternate, **BCA** = bird conservation area, **BBS** = breeding bird survey, **Croton** = Croton Unit, Shimek State Forest (ditto Donnellson and Lick Creek units), **juv** = juvenile, **L** = lake, **L&D** = lock and dam, **Lucas** = Lucas Unit, Stephens State Forest (ditto Whitebreast Unit), **M** = marsh, **m.ob.** = many observers, **NM** = national monument, **NWR** = national wildlife refuge, **Nat Ctr** = nature center, **P** = park, **ph** = photo, **R** = river, **RA** = recreation area, **Res** = reservoir, **Sl** = slough, **SF** = state forest, **SP** = state park, **S Pre** = state preserve, **WA** = wildlife area, **yg** = young.

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK: All: one 9 Jun on Copper Creek L, Pleasant Hill *Polk* (*Allison Drees-ph) and one 2 Jul near Solon *Johnson* (Steve Woodruff-ph, *fide* *SJD) were Iowa's first summer records of this species since 2015.

Snow Goose: All: 4 on 1 Jun and 2 on 5 Jun at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF, BCC), 7 on 2 Jun and 8 on 5 Jun at Bank Swallow WA *Warren* (JG, TD), 2 on 2 Jun at Hendrickson M *Story* (HZ), one 6 Jun at L Sugema *Van Buren* (MP), 3 on 8 Jun at Big Wall L *Wright* (CL), one 11 Jun at L Manawa *Pottawattamie* (DD), 2 on 23 Jun at Trumbull L *Clay* (LAS), one 23 Jun north of Trumbull L *Clay* (POR, RJT, TD), one 23 Jun and 3 on 1 Jul at Linger Longer rest area *Lee* (SJD), one 1, 13, 18 Jul at Burlington *Des Moines* (Vollie Rifner, Peter Lowther, Bobby Wilcox)

Greater White-fronted Goose: All: singles 1 Jun at Slater Ponds *Story* (SJD), 4 Jun, 5, 31 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF), and 22 Jun at Otter Creek M *Tama* (JF).

Mute Swan: All: 3 on 5 Jun at Rock Creek SP *Jasper* (Ken Saunders) and one 15 Jul in Independence *Buchanan* (CK).

Northern Shoveler: More reports than usual with up to 3 found in *Black Hawk*, *Bremer*, *Clay*, *Dickinson*, *Floyd*, *Fremont*, *Hardin*, *Linn*, *Marshall*, *Muscatine*, *Sac*, *Story*, *Wapello*, *Warren*, and *Woodbury* (m.ob.).

Gadwall: All: one 2 Jun at Jensen M *Madison* (JG), 2 on 4 Jun at Legacy WA *Hardin* (DGE), one 12 Jun at Wickiup Hill *Linn* (BCC), one 23 Jun at Trumbull L *Clay* (JJ), 2 on 7 Jul at Dickinson County landfill *Dickinson* (POR), one 14 Jul at Buffalo *Scott* (Richard Sayles), and 6 on 30 Jul at Deere Dike *Dubuque* (K&JA).

American Black Duck: All: singles 4 Jun at Trumbull L *Clay* (SJD-ph) and 8 Jun at Legacy WA *Hardin* (TGS). These are the first summer records since 2014.

Northern Pintail: All: one 4, 11

Jun at Legacy WA *Hardin* (DGE, TSS), one 5 Jun at Trumbull L *Clay* (SJD), and 8 on 29 Jul at Eagle L WA *Hancock* (DAk).

Green-winged Teal: All: one 8 Jun at Big Wall L *Wright* (CL), 4 on 8 Jun at Owego Wetlands *Woodbury* (TL), and one 11 Jun at Legacy WA *Hardin* (TSS).

Canvasback: All: one 14–30 Jun at Prairie Lake P *Black Hawk* (CL, DGE, James Demastes) and a pair 14 Jul at Pickerel L *Buena Vista* (LAS, JJ).

Redhead: Many reports 1 Jun–22 Jul at Trumbull L *Clay* (m.ob.) with two broods 7 Jul and one brood 22 Jul (LAS, SJD) and 30 birds on 12 Jul (JM) the most. Other reports were one 11 Jun at Legacy WA *Hardin* (TSS), 2 on 14 Jul at Pickerel L *Buena Vista* (JJ), and a brood 14, 22 Jul at Mud L *Palo Alto* (LAS, SJD).

Ring-necked Duck: Singles on 1, 2, 23 Jun at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO), 4 Jun at Owego Wetlands *Woodbury* (GLV), 4 Jul near Spencer *Clay* (JJ), and 22 Jul at Grovers L *Dickinson* (LAS).

Lesser Scaup: All: 6 on 12 Jun at Pleasant Creek RA *Linn* (BCC), 3 on 4 Jun, 2 on 16 Jun, 5 on 7 Jul and one 22 Jul at Trumbull L *Clay* (SJD, JM, LAS, JJ), and 2 on 24 Jun at Bays Branch WA *Guthrie* (AB).

Hooded Merganser: Birds were found in 28 counties, mostly north of I-80. The only broods mentioned were 13 Jun at Cardinal M *Winneshiek* (PDBS, DAS) and 21 Jul at Crystal Hills WA *Winnebago* (BCC).

Common Merganser: All: a crippled bird 5 Jun at L Pahoja *Lyon* (SJD) and a male 11 Jun at Copper Creek L *Polk* (JG). This species has been found in Iowa five of the last six summers.

Ruddy Duck: Trumbull L *Clay* had numerous reports with a maximum of 34 on 7 Jul (JJ, m.ob.). The only report of nesting was an ad with 4 yg 24 Jul at Hanlontown Sl *Worth* (RGo). Other reports, mostly of only a few birds and a maximum of 8, came from *Buena Vista*, *Hamilton*, *Hancock*, *Hardin*, *Johnson*, *Lucas*, *Palo Alto*, *Polk*, *Sac*, *Shelby*, *Story*, and *Wright* (m.ob.).

Northern Bobwhite, Ringgold, *6 Jul 2018. Photograph by Doug Harr, Ogden, IA.*

Northern Bobwhite: About 230 reports, far more than usual. Reports, mostly of singles, came from 43 counties, mostly south of a line from *Woodbury* to *Story* to *Johnson* (m.ob.). North of there were reports of one 3 Jul at Big Marsh WA *Butler* (DGE) and one 14 Jul in *Plymouth* (POR). Most: 52 on a 22 Jun BBS route in *Page* and *Fremont* (KVS, SCS) and 24 including a brood of 15 on 6 Jul in *Union* (DAk).

Gray Partridge: Reports, mostly of one or 2, were from *Boone*, *Bremer*, *Cherokee*, *Chickasaw*, *Crawford*, *Howard*, *Humboldt*, *Iowa*, *Kossuth*, *Osceola*, *Palo Alto*, *Pocahontas*, *Sioux*, *Story*, *Winnebago*, *Woodbury*, *Worth*, and *Wright* (m.ob.) and largely within its usual northern Iowa haunts. Most: 9 on 3 Jul near Buffalo Center *Winneba-*

go (DAk). Singles 1 Jul at Indiangrass Hills *Iowa* (BCC) and 5 Jul in *Polk* (DAk) were the southernmost reports.

Ring-necked Pheasant: The 36 on a 5 Jun BBS in *Appanoose* and *Davis* (TNJ) was a high count for that far south in Iowa.

Ruffed Grouse: All: one heard drumming 6 Jun near Highlandville *Winneshiek* (PDBS). Increasingly rare in Iowa, grouse have been found five of the last 10 summers.

Greater Prairie-Chicken: All: one flushed from a nest 8 Jul at Ringgold WA *Ringgold* (ER).

Pied-billed Grebe: Birds were found in 27 counties all north of I-80 except several reports of one or 2 at Jensen M *Madison* (AB, SB, TD). The most were 15 on 4 Jul at Little Storm L *Buena Vista* (Kody Friesen) and 15 on 7 Jul at Burrows Pond WA *Sac* (DS).

Red-necked Grebe: Most reports were from Trumbull L *Clay* (m.ob.) where there were 2 ads 4 Jun (SJD) and 7 birds on 4, 14 Jul (JJ, LAS). Other reports were 2 ads 2 Jun at Big Wall L *Wright* (SJD), 4 ads and a nest 5 Jun at Grovers L *Dickinson* (SJD), and one bird 22, 28 Jul at Mud L *Palo Alto* (SJD).

Eared Grebe: All: 4 on 26 Jul at Eagle L *Hancock* (RGo).

Western Grebe: Most reports from Trumbull L *Clay* with one there 1 Jun (JN) and numerous sightings throughout June and July (m.ob.). The most was 13 on 22 Jul (SJD). The only indication of nesting was up to 9 ads and one yg 4, 7 Jul (LAS, JJ). Elsewhere 3 ads were at Lost Island L *Palo Alto* 23 Jun (m.ob.).

Eurasian Collared-Dove: In extreme northeastern Iowa where this species is least common, one or 2 were found in Calamar, Ft. Atkinson, Lake Meyer P, Postville, and Ridgeway *Winneshiek* (Kris & Craig Rash, Betsy Evans, CK, AB).

White-winged Dove: All: one 9, 10 Jun in Nevada *Story* (Dennis Henderson *fide* HZ-ph).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: From 1 to 7 were found in 66 counties throughout Iowa. Most reports were of one or 2 birds (m.ob.).

Black-billed Cuckoo: One or 2 were found in 11 counties scattered around the state (m.ob.).

Chuck-will's-widow: All: singles 9 Jun at two sites near the eastern edge of Lucas Unit *Lucas* (AB).

Eastern Whip-poor-will: All: 10 on 9 Jun at three sites in the Whitebreast Unit and adjacent land near the Lucas Unit (AB), one 4 Jun at Hitaga Ridge Sand Prairie *Linn* (BCC), 2 on 5 Jun at Donnellson Unit *Lee* (MP), 3 on 8 Jun at Jones Creek Pond *Monona* (Kadynn Hatfield), 5 on 13 Jun at Hitchcock Nat Ctr *Pottawattamie* (SM), 2 on 15 Jun at Melrose *Wayne* (Jeremy Cochran), 2 on 21 Jun in *Monona* (JaC), 2 on 24 Jun at Donnellson Unit *Lee* (DAS), 3 on 9 Jul at Broken Kettle Grasslands *Plymouth* (BH), and one 20 Jul near New Albin *Allamakee* (BR).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: About 650 reports, mostly of one or 2 birds, from 55 counties throughout Iowa (m.ob., eBird). Most: 10 on 16 Jun, 17 Jul at Pikes Peak SP *Clayton* (Tony Nowak, K&JA) and 5 Jul at Massey Marina *Dubuque* (BW).

Virginia Rail: Reports of nesting were a pair 23 Jun and a pair and 2 yg on 18 Jul at a private wetland in *Franklin* (SP) and a pair and 4 large yg 28 Jul at Gilmore City wetland *Pocahontas* (SJD). Other reports of one or 2 came from *Clay*, *Clinton*, *Emmet*, *Greene*, *Johnson*, *Louisa*, *Muscatine*, *Palo Alto*,

and *Worth* (m.ob.).

Sora: The only report of nesting was of 2 ads and 3 yg 18 Jul on a private wetland in *Franklin* (SP). Other reports, nearly all singles, were from *Boone*, *Clay*, *Jackson*, *Palo Alto*, *Polk* (2 sites), and *Winnebago* (m.ob.).

Common Gallinule: Numerous reports from Green Island WA *Jackson* where 12 on 7 Jul included two broods (JA, m.ob.). Other reports, all of one or 2 birds, were from Bays Branch WA *Guthrie*, Big Wall L *Wright*, Cardinal M *Winneshiek*, Center Point M *Linn*, Eagle L *Hancock*, Jensen M *Madison*, and Lizard L *Pocahontas* (m.ob.).

American Coot: Reported from 18 counties, nearly all north of I-80. A third of the 69 reports were from Trumbull L *Clay* with 70 there 23 Jun (TD) and 170 on 14 Jul (JJ). The southernmost report was one 27 Jul at Maskunky M *Mahaska* (TD, RJT).

Sandhill Crane: Reports came from 16 counties, nearly all from known nesting sites. Most reports were of singles or 2 (presumably a pair) and only one mentioned seeing a colt. Was this a poor nesting year for cranes? Several groups totaling 35 birds were seen leaving Sweet M *Bremer* 13 Jul (BCC), a large total for that site and date. Two birds 30 Jun at Elk Lake WA *Clay* (DS) suggests nesting at the western edge of its Iowa range.

Black-necked Stilt: All: 2 ads 6 Jun at Auldon Bar WA *Fremont* (SM-details) and 2 ads 10 Jun at Noddleman Island WA *Mills* (SM-details). Stilts have been found in Iowa five of the last six summers.

American Avocet: Last: one 5 Jun at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (BCC). Southbound birds were 3 on 16 Jul at Cedar L *Linn* (JF, BCC) and 2 on 27 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF).

Black-bellied Plover: All: one 2 Jun at Big Wall L *Wright* (SJD), 6 on 6 Jun at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF), and one there 16 Jun (JF).

American Golden-Plover: All: singles 10 Jun at Terry Trueblood RA *Johnson* (Jonah Alderson), 10 Jun in *Fremont* (SM), 19 Jun at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF), 7 Jul in *Worth* (RGo), 22 Jul at Sweet M *Bremer* (TGS), and 5 on 29 Jul near Garner *Hancock* (DAk).

Semipalmated Plover: Last: 6 on 7 Jun at Otter Creek M *Tama* (JF) and one 15 Jun at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF). First southbound: 3 on 13 Jul near Rippey *Greene* (DAk).

Killdeer: Most: 150 on 27 Jul near Brenton Arboretum *Dallas* (JB).

Upland Sandpiper: Reports mostly of one or 2 birds from 27 counties scattered throughout the state but few in southeastern Iowa (m.ob.). Most: 16 on 27–29 Jul on a sod farm in *Linn* (BCC, Deb & Mark Rolfes, POR).

Hudsonian Godwit: All: one 4 Jun near Owego Wetlands *Woodbury* (GLV), and 3 on 16 Jul along Hwy 52 in *Jackson* (BW) and one there 21, 22 Jul (TM, CK, EB-details).

Marbled Godwit: All: one 29 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF).

Stilt Sandpiper: Last: one 3 Jun at Bank Swallow WA *Warren* (AB, JG). First: one 15 Jul at Mitchell M *Union* (JG). Most: 3 on 17 Jul in *Winnebago* (DAk).

Sanderling: All: 3 in *Hancock* and one in *Winnebago* 29 Jul (DAk).

Baird's Sandpiper: All: 3 in *Winnebago* and 2 and 4 at two sites in *Hancock*, all 29 Jul (DAk).

Least Sandpiper: Last: one 2 Jun at Bank Swallow WA *Warren* (JG). First southbound: 16 on 11 Jul in *Winnebago* (DAk) and 9 on 10 Jul at L Macbride *Johnson* (MHB). Most: 55 on 17 Jul in

Winnebago (DAk).

White-rumped Sandpiper: Last: 8 on 10 Jun at Auldon Bar WA *Fremont* (SM) and 14 on 11 Jun at Legacy WA *Hardin* (TSS). Most: 65 on 3 Jun at Legacy Wetland *Hardin* (TSS).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: First: 36 counted on photo on 27 Jul at Deal Rd/Troy Mills Rd sod farm *Linn* (BCC), the most in recent years, and 16 the same day at Blue Grass Sod Farm *Linn* (TM). Other reports came from *Clay*, *Dallas*, *Johnson*, *Union*, *Winnebago*, and *Woodbury* (m.ob.). All reports were from 27 to 30 July.

Pectoral Sandpiper: Last: 2 on 7 Jun at Bank Swallow WA *Warren* (JG): First: 4 on 15 Jul at Mitchell M *Union* (JG). Most reports were 21–30 Jul (m.ob.) and no really large flocks were reported with 112 on 29 Jul in *Clay* (LAS) the most.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: Last: 15 on 11 Jun at Legacy WA *Hardin* (TSS) and one 12 Jun at Bank Swallow WA *Warren* (JG). Most: 138 on 2 Jun at Jensen M *Madison* (JG). Southbound birds: first 6 on 13 Jul in *Greene* (DAk) and most 26 on 29 Jul in *Hancock* (DAk).

Short-billed Dowitcher: All: 2 on 14 Jul in *Worth* (RGo), one 15 Jul at Mitchell M *Union* (JG), and one 27 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF).

American Woodcock: All: one 20 Jun near Elkhart *Polk* (Jack Moran) and one 9 Jul at Cedar Valley Nature Trail *Black Hawk* (CL, RH).

Wilson's Snipe: All: 2 winnowing 23 Jun at Kirchner Prairie *Clay* (LAS, POR, RJT), one 23 Jun near Kirchner Prairie *Clay* (JJ), and one 4 Jul near Westfield *Plymouth* (JJ).

Spotted Sandpiper: About 170 reports, mostly of one or 2 birds, from 40 counties throughout Iowa (m.ob.). Most: 10 on 8 Jul at Terry Trueblood RA *Johnson* (SD).

Solitary Sandpiper: First: singles 7 Jul at Green Island WA *Jackson* (TM), near Moeckley Prairie *Polk* (RJT), and at L Macbride *Johnson* (MHB). Most: 14 on 28 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JM).

Lesser Yellowlegs: Last: one 6 Jun near Hospers *Sioux* (JJ) and one 3 Jun at Jensen M *Madison* (SB). First: one 4 Jul at Trumbull L *Clay* (JJ) and 2 on 5 Jul at Colo Bogs *Story* (HZ). Most: 170 on 17 Jul in *Winnebago* (DAk).

Willet: All: 2 on 14 Jul at Big Wall L *Wright* (SJD), one 14 Jul near Ayrshire *Palo Alto* (JJ), and one 19, 30 Jul at Deere Dike *Dubuque* (CK, K&JA).

Greater Yellowlegs: Last: 2 on 4 Jun at Owego Wetlands *Woodbury* (SJD, GLV) and one 4 Jun at Legacy WA *Hardin* (DGE). First: singles 13 Jul in *Greene* (DAk) and 15 Jul at Mitchell M *Union* (JG). Most: 4 in *Winnebago* 17 Jul (DAk).

Wilson's Phalarope: All: one 4 Jun at Legacy WA *Hardin* (DGE) and 2 there 29 Jul (TSS), one 17 Jul in *Winnebago* (DAk), 3 on 29 Jul in *Hancock* (DAk), and one or 2 on 30 Jul in *Story* (TG, TD).

PARASITIC JAEGER: One 13, 14 Jun at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (*JF, *BCC, *CRE-ph) is Iowa's first summer record for this species and only the second summer report of a jaeger in Iowa. The other was a Long-tailed Jaeger in June 1907, also in *Johnson*.

Black-headed x Ring-billed Gull hybrid: One 4 Jun at Meinking M *Dickinson* (SJD) may have been the same bird that was seen at nearby Meinking M in June 2013 (Dinsmore 2013) and in 2017.

Laughing Gull: One ad 3, 14, 18 Jul at Trumbull L *Clay* (BCC-ph, LAS, JJ, DHe, SD, MP), and one 7, 22, 28

Jul at Dickinson County landfill *Dickinson* (JJ, LAS, SJD) may have been the same bird. Those two points are about 12 miles apart. This is the first summer report since 2014 and the third in the past 10 years for this species.

Franklin's Gull: The usual reports of a few scattered throughout Iowa during June; the most were 12 on 2 Jun at Jensen M *Madison* (JG), 15 on 4 Jun at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* (KVS), and 12 on 11 Jun at L Manawa *Pottawattamie* (DD). The first large counts were in early July with 550 on 7 Jul at the Dickinson County landfill (POR) and 850 there 9 Jul (LAS). Counts there grew to 3150 on 22 Jul (LAS), and 4020 on 28 Jul (SJD).

Ring-billed Gull: The nesting colony at Meinking M *Dickinson* had 114+ nests and 220 ads 4 Jun (SJD). Other June reports were all single-digit counts in the Great Lakes region, along the Mississippi R and elsewhere. Larger concentrations were noted in July including 101 on 10 Jul at Eagle Point P *Dubuque* (K&JA), 85 on 13 Jul at L&D 14 *Scott* (Steven Freed), and 100 on 30 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (Linda Quinn) but no really large groups were noted in July.

CALIFORNIA GULL: An ad 22 Jul near the Dickinson County landfill *Dickinson* (*SJD-ph) was Iowa's fourth summer record of this species. Previous reports were in 2007, 2010, and 2012.

Herring Gull: All: one first-alt bird 3 Jun at Saylorville *Polk* (SJD), 2 on 22 Jun at Nahant M *Scott* (KJM), and 2 on 7 Jul at the Dickinson County landfill *Dickinson* (POR).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: A first-alt bird 5 Jun at the Dickinson County landfill *Dickinson* (SJD-ph) was Iowa's first summer record of this species.

Least Tern: Eleven nests, seven of them successful, produced 9 fledglings at MidAmerican Ponds *Pottawattamie* (Joseph Curillo *fide* SJD). Other reports were one 4 Jun at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF), one ad 4 Jun at Sandhill L *Woodbury* (SJD) and 2 on 8 Jul at Brinker L, George Wyth SP *Black Hawk* (CL).

Caspian Tern: All: 3 on 8 Jun at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF), 3 on 11 Jun at L Manawa *Pottawattamie* (POR), one 14 Jun at Rice Lake SP *Worth* (RGo), 2 on 1 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF), 2 on 1 Jul at Linger Longer rest area *Lee* (SJD), 2 on 1 Jul at Big Wall L *Wright* (RGo), 3 on 10 Jul at Gray's L *Polk* (JB), one 19 Jul in *Buchanan* (CL), one 20 Jul in *Marion* (Dan Watkins), and one 26 Jul at L Sugema *Van Buren* (POR).

Black Tern, Ventura Marsh, Cerro Gordo, *23 Jul 2018. Photograph by Bruce G. McKee, Mason City, IA.*

Black Tern: Late migrants were 2 in *Story* and 4 at Jensen M *Madison* on 2 Jun (EO, JG), and 5 in *Fremont* and 5 at Legacy WA *Hardin* 3 Jun (SQ, TSS). Numerous birds were at Trumbull L *Clay* 16 Jun–31 Jul (m.ob.) with a high count of 40 on 18 Jul (SD). Birds in other potential nesting areas included 4 on 1 Jul at Ventura M *Cerro Gordo* (RGo).

Common Tern: All: one 23 Jun at Trumbull L *Clay* (POR, JJ, RJT-details).

Forster's Tern: Most reports came from Trumbull L *Clay* including an imm

and three nest sites on 23 Jun (LAS). Most reports were of 1–6 birds with 10 there 3 Jul (BCC, DHe, m.ob.) the most. Southbound birds were 5 on 27 Jul at Maskunky M *Mahaska* (RJT, TD) and 5 on 30 Jul at Deere Dike *Dubuque* (K&JA).

Common Loon: The most reports I have ever received for summer. The most were 3 on 1 Jun–31 Jul at Clear L *Cerro Gordo* (CJF-ph), 6 on 4 Jun at Spirit L *Dickinson* (SJD) and 5 there 22 Jul (SJD). Others, all singles, were one basic 2, 17 Jun and one alt 6 Jul at Ada Hayden P *Story* (SJD), 7, 12, 18 Jun, 17, 18, 26 Jul at Dale Maffitt Res *Polk*, *Dallas* (JG), 11 Jun on Martin L *Black Hawk* (CH), 13 Jun on L Sugema *Van Bur*en (Raymond Morrison), 20 Jun at MidAmerican ponds *Pottawattamie* (POR), 23 Jun, 3, 22, 29 Jul at Lost Island L *Palo Alto* (m.ob.), 14 Jul at Prairie P *Woodbury* (GLV), and 27 Jul in *Appanoose* (CL).

Double-crested Cormorant: Cormorants nested again on the *Clinton* spoil islands (*fide* SJD). From 23 Jun to 28 Jul, 80 or more were at Trumbull L *Clay* (m.ob.) with a maximum of 140 on 7 Jul (JJ). Other than 80 on 23 Jul at Eagle Point P *Dubuque* (Karen & Michael Warner), other reports were mostly single digit counts, mainly along the Mississippi R, and several of the large reservoirs (m.ob.).

American White Pelican: Pelicans nested again on the *Clinton* spoil islands (*fide* SJD). The only large flocks in June were 100 on 2 Jun at Cone M *Louisa* (JM), 150 on 4 Jun at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (Vicky & Gordon Tucker), and 250 on 16 Jun at Trumbull L *Clay* (JM). Unlike most recent years, no really big flocks were reported in July with 380 on 26 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (BCC) the most. Many mostly small groups were reported in the Great Lakes region and along the Mississippi R (m.ob.).

American Bittern: Other than 2 on 29 Jul at Big Wall L *Wright* (DAk), all singles; 5 Jun at Meinking M *Dickinson* (SJD), 7 Jun at Voas Nature Area *Dallas* (TMH), 8 Jun, 1 Jul, 14, 29 Jul at Big Wall L *Wright* (CL, RGo, SJD), 1, 18, 22, 28 Jul at Trumbull L *Clay* (JN, SD, SJD, SB), 13 Jul at Snake Creek M *Greene* (DAk), 14 Jul near Ayrshire *Palo Alto* (JJ), 26 Jul at Eagle Flats WA *Hancock* (RGo), 29 Jul Lower Morse L *Wright* (DAk), and 31 Jul at Union Hills WA *Cerro Gordo* (RGo).

Least Bittern: Nearly all reports were of one or 2 birds, from 22 counties, mostly in the northern half of Iowa but south to Cone M *Louisa* (m.ob.) in the east and Forney L *Fremont* (SM) in the west. Most: 7 ads and 2 juv on 14 Jul at Big Wall L *Wright* (SJD).

Great Blue Heron: Most: 65 on 1 Jun at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF).

Great Egret: Found in 27 counties, mostly in the eastern half of Iowa. Most reports were of one or 2 but more than 20 reports were of 10 or more birds, especially from *Jackson* (m.ob.). Most: 94 on 21 Jul at Nahant M *Scott* (KJM) and 62 on 7 Jul at Green Island *Jackson* (TM).

Snowy Egret: All: one 3 Jun at Saylorville Res *Polk* (Pip Fisher).

LITTLE BLUE HERON: All: a calico 5 Jul at Ada Hayden P *Story* (*SJD) and another calico 21 Jul at Nahant M *Scott* (Britt Vickstrom-ph,*KJM).

Cattle Egret: All: two 8 Jun at Big Wall L *Wright* (CL), one 10 Jun at Forney L *Fremont* (SM), and 18 on 24 Jun near Badger L *Woodbury* (GLV).

Green Heron: Reported from 41 counties from throughout Iowa (m.ob.). Most reports were of one or 2 birds.

Most: 6 on 15 Jul at Chichaqua Bottoms *Polk* (EO).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: Numerous reports, mostly of one or 2, from Trumbull L *Clay* 23 Jun–29 Jul (m.ob.) but 14 were present 29 Jul (DS). Other reports were one 3 Jun in *Fremont* (SQ), 3 on 4 Jun at Little Storm L *Buena Vista* (DS), one 19 Jun at Oak Grove P *Sioux* (SM, SMc, one 1 Jul and 4 on 29 Jul at Big Wall L *Wright* (RGo, DAk), one 6 Jul at Ada Hayden P *Story* (SJD), and one 13 Jul in *Greene* (DAk).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: All: one juv 3 Jul at Sullivan Sl *Des Moines* (CF) and one there 4 Jul (MHB, BCC, SD), and 1–3 from 7 to 14 Jul at Chichaqua Bottoms *Polk* (m.ob.) starting with 2 on 7 Jul (EO), and 2 ads and 1 juv there 9 Jul (RLC).

White-faced Ibis: All: 2 on 1 Jun near Salix *Woodbury* (PP), one 1 Jun near Hornick *Woodbury* (PP), and an ad 4 Jun at Blue L *Monona* (SJD).

***Plegadis* species**: All: one 14 Jul in *Plymouth* (POR).

Osprey: Sixteen of 29 active nests were successful and produced 30 yg (SSh). The number of active nests is the most ever but fewer young were produced than in the previous two years. Osprey nesting activity was concentrated along the Iowa River valley from Iowa City to Waterloo, in *Polk* and adjacent counties, and in the Spirit Lake region (SSh).

Northern Harrier: Thirteen reports from 12 counties throughout Iowa (m.ob.) with more reports from July than June (8 vs 5). No one mentioned any evidence of nesting but one 8 Jul near Ruthven *Palo Alto* (MCK) and several reports in July at Trumbull L *Clay* (JB, Dale Bonk) were in likely nesting areas. A few probably nest somewhere in Iowa most years.

Cooper's Hawk: Reports from 26 counties from throughout Iowa, all of one or 2 birds (m.ob.). The only reports of nesting were a nest with 2 yg on 21 Jul at Jester P *Polk* (WO) and an ad with a juv 30 Jul at Oak Grove P *Johnson* (BCC).

Bald Eagle: I received reports from 46 counties in all sections of Iowa (m.ob.). This species has nested in every Iowa county and seems to be doing very well.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Blackhawk Bottoms WA, Des Moines, *4 Jul 2018. Photograph by Brandon Caswell, Marion, IA.*

Mississippi Kite: One or 2 seen 9 Jun–29 Jul in West Des Moines *Polk* (m.ob.). An ad feeding a yg bird 25 Jul in West Des Moines *Polk* (Betty Warywoda *fide* DTh) documented nesting. One or 2 were seen 1 Jun–29 Jul at Memorial P, Ottumwa *Wapello* (m.ob.)

where a nest with 2 yg was found 27 Jul (Jerry Denning *fide* DCH). Kites apparently nested in or near the Woodburn Unit, Stephens SF *Clarke* where an ad and a fledgling were seen and photographed 29, 31 Jul (Mark Edwards, Jacob Newton *fide* SJD).

Red-shouldered Hawk: One or 2 were found in 15 counties. Other than one 7 Jul in Waubonsie SP *Fremont* (SS), all were in counties east of a line from *Allamakee* to *Polk* to *Lucas* (m.ob.). Once considered rare in Iowa, this species seems to be established in numerous wooded areas in the eastern third of the state.

Broad-winged Hawk: All: reports of one or 2 from Big Marsh WA *Butler* (DGE), Donnellson Unit *Lee* (MP), Jester P, Jordan Creek trail, Walnut Woods SP, Chichaqua Bottoms *Polk* (AB, RJT, JG, PPe), Ames *Story* (KG), Ottumwa *Wapello* (BCC, DHe), Lake Ahquabi SP *Warren* (Malcolm Gold, Dan Broers), *Winneshiek* (CL, RH), and Sioux City *Woodbury* (BH). Presumably most of these represented nesting birds.

Swainson's Hawk: All: one 6 Jun at Heenda Hills S Pre *Plymouth* (TL). This species has been found in eight of the last ten summers.

Barn Owl: All: singles 26 Jun in *Allamakee* (*fide* PDBS), 20 Jul in *Crawford* (DAk), 21 Jul in *Boone* (Joe Monahan), and 26 Jul in *Ringgold* (JCa).

Barred Owl: The only report from northwestern Iowa was one 13 Jun at Oak Grove P *Sioux* (JJ).

Red-bellied Woodpecker: Singles 19 and 25 Jun at Oak Grove P *Sioux* (SMc, SM, Nancy & Bill LaFramboise) were the northwestern-most reports.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Mostly one or 2 from *Cherokee*, *Lyon*, and *Sioux* near Iowa's western border, *Allamakee*, *Clayton*, *Dubuque*, and *Winneshiek* in northeastern Iowa, south along the Mississippi R to *Jackson*, *Scott* and *Muscatine*, and inland to *Linn* and *Story* counties (m.ob.). Most: 4 on 13 Jun in Oak Grove P *Sioux* (JJ) and 4 on 7 Jul at Green Island *Jackson* (TM).

Pileated Woodpecker: Mostly singles from 29 counties, a few more than usual, and other than one 5 Jul in Stone SP *Woodbury* (DK), all were east of a line from *Hancock* to *Story* to *Madison* to *Van Buren* (m.ob). Most: 4 on 9 Jun at Yellow River F *Allamakee* (TM). Like the Red-shouldered Hawk, this species seems to be gradually expanding its range.

Merlin: All: one 14 Jul in Dubuque *Dubuque* (TM-ph). Other than the two nests in 2016, this is the first summer record of Merlin in Iowa since 2004.

Peregrine Falcon: Peregrines had a fairly successful year. Eight of 13 active nests were successful and produced 20 young (SSh). Activity at and nesting success of another five known nest sites is unknown. These totals are lower than those of the past several years.

Western Kingbird: The usual reports from its western Iowa haunts in *Harrison*, *Plymouth*, *Pottawattamie*, and *Woodbury* east to *Adair*, *Page*, and *Union* (m.ob.). Continuing to do well in *Polk* with reports from several sites (AB, m.ob.). One 23 Jul in *Hardin* (SQ) was unexpected as was one far to the east 9 Jun at Big Sand Mound S Pre *Muscatine* (KJM, BCC, MHB).

Olive-sided Flycatcher: All: one 1 Jun at Croton Unit *Lee* (BCC, DHe, SD).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: All: singles 1 Jun in Dubuque *Dubuque* (TM), 1, 2 Jun in Dubuque *Dubuque* (Ben Horstman), and 2 Jun in *Johnson* (KT Long).

Acadian Flycatcher: Reported from 26 counties, mostly east of a line

from *Floyd* to *Polk* to *Lucas*; most reports were of one or 2 birds (m.ob.). The only reports from southwestern Iowa were numerous reports from Waubonsie SP *Fremont* (m.ob.) and 2 on 13 Jun at Hitchcock Nat Ctr *Pottawattamie* (SM).

Alder Flycatcher: Besides the usual late migrants in the first few days of June, singles 5 Jun in *Harrison* (SM) and 13 Jun at Thelman WA *Fayette* (PDBS, DAS-heard) were the latest.

Willow Flycatcher: Reported from 46 counties from throughout Iowa (m.ob.). Most reports were of one or 2 individuals. Most: 12 on 9 Jun at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* (KVS).

Least Flycatcher: One 6 Jun near Highlandville *Winneshiek* (PDBS) was in an area where it may have nested. One 9 Jul at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD) and one 22 Jul at Green Island *Jackson* (EB) were early migrants.

Loggerhead Shrike, Ridge Road, Plymouth, *11 Jul 2018. Photograph by Paul Roisen, Sioux City, IA.*

Loggerhead Shrike: Up to 5 reported from *Adams*, *Adair*, *Appanoose*, *Iowa*, *Plymouth*, *Ringgold*, *Wayne*, and *Winnebago* (m.ob.). Young birds were noted in *Appanoose* (TNJ), *Iowa* (DHe), *Plymouth* (Benjamin Carlson, JJ), and *Ringgold* (Benjamin Ewing, ER, JCa). A few widely scattered birds still persist in Iowa but its numbers are much reduced from those of the 1980s and earlier.

White-eyed Vireo: All: 1–4 were at Croton Unit *Lee* 1–25 Jun (m.ob.) and 7 were there 23 Jun (JG). Others were one 1 Jun at Malchow Creek *Des Moines* (David Griffin), one 22, 27 Jul at Lacey-Keosauqua SP *Van Buren* (JM, RST, TD), one 22 Jun at New Wine P *Dubuque* (DAS), and 2 on 26 Jul at Argyle *Lee* (POR). One 30 Jun, 1 Jul near Story City *Story* (EO, AB) was west of its usual range.

Bell's Vireo: Reported from 29 counties, mostly in the southern two-thirds of Iowa with few in north-central and northwestern Iowa. The most northwesterly reports were one or 2 at Heenda Hills Pres and near Westfield in *Plymouth* (TL, JJ, POR). Most: 7 on 26 Jul at L Sugema *Van Buren* (POR).

Yellow-throated Vireo: Reports came from 49 counties from all sections of Iowa. Most were of one or 2 birds with 5 on 23 Jun at Lacey-Keosauqua SP *Van Buren* (JG) the most.

Purple Martin: Most 114 on 27 Jul at DeSoto NWR *Harrison* (CD).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: Most: 65 on 22 Jul along the Wapsipinicon R *Scott* (DAS).

Bank Swallow: Most: 110 on 1, 2 Jul at Owego Wetlands *Woodbury* (CD, POR).

Tufted Titmouse: About 450 reports, many of them multiple reports from single locations. Birds were found in 26 counties, mostly in the eastern half of Iowa, and only reports from *Fremont* and *Ringgold* were west of there (m.ob.). Most: 11 on 12 Jun at Lake Keomah SP *Mahaska* (SD).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: All: one 5 Jun at White Pine Hollow *Dubuque* (TSS), one 12 Jun at Osborne Nat Ctr *Clayton* (PDBS), and 2 on 29 Jun at Harper's Ferry *Allamakee* (PDBS). This species has been found in Iowa six of the last ten summers.

Brown Creeper: All: one 10 Jun in Jefferson *Greene* (Olya Phillips), one 13 Jun at Sherrill *Clayton* (BR), 4 on 22 Jun at Nahant M *Scott* (KJM), one 29 Jun at Oakland Acres *Jasper* (Caleb Hansen), and one 3 Jul at Princeton WA *Scott* (JA).

Sedge Wren: Reported from 48 counties throughout Iowa including south to *Decatur*, *Ringgold*, and *Van Buren* near the Missouri border (m.ob.). Most: 25 on 30 Jul at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* (KVS), where late July counts were greater than counts there earlier in the summer (KVS).

Marsh Wren: Found in 33 counties, mostly in the northern half of Iowa (m.ob.) but south to one 3 Jun at Riverton WA *Fremont* (SQ). Most: 34 on 4 Jul at Trumbull L *Clay* (JJ) and 25 on 14 Jul at Pool Sl *Allamakee* (SF).

Carolina Wren: More reports (ca 240) than usual although somewhat inflated by multiple reports from a few locations. Reports came from 33 counties south of a line from *Winneshiek* southwest to *Monona* (m.ob.). Most reports were of one or 2 individuals; the most were 7 on 22 Jul at Lacey-Keosauqua SP *Van Buren* (JM).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: More than 200 reports, mostly of one or 2 birds. Reports came from 37 counties, mainly in the eastern half of Iowa. Further west they were reported only in *Audubon*, *Guthrie*, and nearly all of the counties along Iowa's western border (m.ob.). Most: 12 on 7 Jul at Green Island *Jackson* (JA).

Veery: All: 2 on 5 Jun at White Pine Hollow *Dubuque* (TSS), one or 2 on 12, 14 Jun, 28 Jul at Backbone SP *Delaware* (DAS, Joe Kipper, Keith Tollenaere), 4 on 5 Jun at Amana Timber *Iowa* (JF), and 2 on 12 Jul at Driftless Area NWR *Clayton* (BR).

Wood Thrush: From 1 to 4 were found in 41 counties, mostly in the eastern half of Iowa but also along the western border from *Fremont* to *Lyon* (m.ob.)

Northern Mockingbird: Reported from 14 counties, all in the southern half of Iowa other than one 10 Jun at LaPorte City *Black Hawk* (CH) and one 9 Jun in *Lyon* (IG). Mostly singles, the most was 5 on 23 Jun at Indiangrass Hills *Iowa* (MHB).

Cedar Waxwing: With reports from 67 counties (m.ob.), this species was widely distributed across Iowa. Most: 27 on 17 Jul in *Winneshiek* (RH, CL) and 25 on 14 Jun at Luther College, Decorah *Winneshiek* (AB).

Eurasian Tree Sparrow: Reports came from 13 counties, nearly all within its established range in the southeastern quarter of Iowa (m.ob.). The only new site was one 7, 8 Jun at Greene *Butler* (Bruce Burroughs).

Red Crossbill: All: one 11 Jun in *Woodbury* (Rick Morgan-ph). In the last 10 years crossbills were found in 2016, 2013 and 2012.

Pine Siskin: All: 3 on 3 Jul in Cherokee *Cherokee* (DBi). Siskins have been found in Iowa six of the last 10 summers.

Spotted Towhee: Two reports, both with some details: 3 on 13 Jun at Oak Grove P *Sioux* (JJ) and one 7 Jul at Gitchie Manitou S Pre *Lyon* (PB). Although these birds had the appearance of Spotted Towhees, it is likely that they were hybrids with Eastern Towhee.

Eastern Towhee: Widely reported with about 500 reports from 54 counties from all parts of Iowa (m.ob.). Most reports were of one or 2. Most: 17 on 13 Jun at Hitchcock Nat Ctr *Pottawattamie* (SM) and 13 on 4 Jul at Lacey-Keosauqua SP *Van Buren* (AB).

Clay-colored Sparrow: A few were found across northern Iowa in *Clay*, *Dickinson*, *Fayette*, *Hancock*, *Howard*, *Winnebago*, *Winneshiek*, *Worth*, and *Wright* (m.ob.). Most: 5 on 29 Jul at Good Neighbor M *Winnebago* (DAk).

Lark Sparrow: Reported from 32 counties scattered throughout the state. Most reports were of 1–3 birds. Most: 8 on 21 Jun in *Monona* (JaC) and 8 on 2 Jul in *Woodbury* (POR).

Savannah Sparrow: Reported from 28 counties, mostly in the northern half of Iowa (m.ob.). The southernmost record was one 27 Jul in *Appanoose* (CL).

Grasshopper Sparrow: Birds were found in 41 counties throughout Iowa (m.ob.). Most: 30 on 9 Jun at Big Sand Mound S Pre *Muscatine* (KJM).

Henslow's Sparrow: Reports came from 27 counties covering all but northwestern Iowa (m.ob.). Most: 19 on 12 Jun at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* (KVS).

Henslow's Sparrow, Red Feather Prairie, Polk, *12 Jun 2018. Photograph by Reid Allen, West Des Moines, IA.*

Swamp Sparrow: Reported from 28 counties, all in the northern half of Iowa. Most: 16 on 14 Jul at Pool Sl *Allamakee* (SF).

Yellow-breasted Chat: More reports than usual, coming from 14 counties west to *Ringgold* and *Polk* and north to *Butler* and *Black Hawk* (m.ob.). Most reports were of one or 2 birds. Most: 6 on 23 Jun at Croton unit *Lee* (JG).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: Reported from 26 counties, nearly all in the Prairie Pothole Region of Iowa (m.ob.). Southernmost reports were one 10 Jun at Forney L *Fremont* (SM) and 4 there 11 Jun (Gail Johnson), and one 20, 28 Jun, 16 Jul at Green Island WA *Jackson* (TM, RW).

Bobolink: Reported from 47 counties throughout Iowa and south to *Davis*, *Decatur*, *Ringgold*, and *Van Buren* along the Missouri border (m.ob.). Post-breeding birds included 48 on 14 Jul at Big Wall L *Wright* (SJD).

Eastern Meadowlark: In Iowa's northwestern corner, long a stronghold of Western Meadowlark, single Easterns were found in *Sioux* and *Plymouth* (IG, Emma Martin, POR, DK).

Western Meadowlark: Along the eastern edge of Iowa, a few Western Meadowlarks were found in *Allamakee*, *Dubuque*, *Muscatine*, and *Louisa* (m.ob.).

Orchard Oriole: Reported from 52 counties throughout Iowa (m.ob.). Most: 22 on 24 Jun at DeSoto NWR *Harrison* (Gregory & Susan Estep).

Great-tailed Grackle: Reported from 14 counties, more than usual including many usual nesting sites (m.ob.). Two on 11 Jul at Inwood *Lyon* (Kevin Smith) were in far northwestern Iowa. Most: 6 on 24 Jun at Bays Branch *Guthrie* (AB) and 6 on 11 Jul at Dunbar Sl *Greene* (DCH).

Prothonotary Warbler, Cedar River Crossing, Johnson, *24 Jun 2018. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*

Ovenbird: Reports came from 18 counties; mostly in the eastern third of the state but also along the western border from *Fremont* to *Woodbury* counties, in *Madison* and *Polk* counties in central Iowa, and in *Ringgold* on the southern border (m.ob.). Most reports were of one or 2 birds. Most: 8 on 9 Jun at Yellow River SF *Allamakee* (TM) and 8 on 10 Jun at Waubonsie SP *Fremont* (SQ).

Worm-eating Warbler: All: one 23 Jun at Croton Unit *Lee* (SJD).

Louisiana Waterthrush: Most reports were from Waubonsie SP *Fremont* where seven territories produced at least a few yg (SS, WRS, JoC). Other reports of one or 2 birds came from *Dubuque*, *Lucas*, *Monona*, *Muscatine*, *Polk*, *Van Buren*, and *Woodbury* (m.ob.).

Blue-winged Warbler: Reports of one or 2 came from *Allamakee*, *Dubuque*, *Fayette*, *Lee*, *Tama*, *Van Buren*, and *Winneshiek* (m.ob.). Most: 5 on 9 Jun at Yellow River SF *Allamakee* (TM) and 4 on 1 Jun at Croton Unit *Lee* (BCC, DHe).

Black-and-white Warbler: All: 2 singing males 1 Jun at Croton Unit *Lee* (BCC-ph, DHe) and one 22 Jun at Rock Creek P *Clinton* (KJM, MR).

Prothonotary Warbler: Reports came from 12 counties, mostly bordering the Mississippi R and most of one or 2 birds (m.ob.). Away from the river were singles 2 Jun at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF), 2, 9, 17 Jun at Brenton Sl *Dallas* (AB, TG, PPe), 2 Jun, 1 Jul at Cedar River Crossing *Johnson* (MHB), 6 on 9 Jun at Chichaqua Bottoms *Polk* (EO), and 2 on 23 Jun at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (Nathan Hoema). Most: 15 on 6 Jun at Nahant M *Scott* (KJM) and 19 on 22 Jun at Rock Creek P *Clinton* (KJM, MR).

Tennessee Warbler: Late migrants were singles 2 Jun at Browns Woods *Polk* (AB) and 13 Jun in Des Moines *Polk* (SCS).

Mourning Warbler: All: one 3 Jun at Saylorville Res *Polk* (KVS).

Kentucky Warbler: Reports, mostly of one or 2 birds, came from 12 counties mostly east of a line from *Allamakee* to *Polk* to *Madison* (m.ob.). More than half of the reports were from reliable sites in Waubonsie SP, Shimek SF, and Lacey-Keosauqua SP (m.ob.). Most: 9 on 4 Jul at Lacey-Keosauqua SP *Van Buren* (AB).

Hooded Warbler: All: one 2 Jun at Brown's Woods *Polk* (AB), one heard 9 Jun at Goeldner Woods *Madison* (SB), one 16, 25 Jun at Donnellson Unit *Lee* (TM, DAS), 2 on 16 Jun and one 22 Jul at L Sugema *Van Buren* (CH), and one 22 Jun at Lacey-Keosauqua SP *Van Buren* (JM).

American Redstart: Reports of this common nesting warbler came from 50 counties throughout the state (m.ob.). Most: 20 on 17 Jun at Mines of Spain *Dubuque* (TM) and 20 on 3 Jul at Swiss Valley *Dubuque* (K&JA). The 18 on 13 Jun at Oak Grove P *Sioux* (JJ)

was a high count for western Iowa.

Cerulean Warbler: Reports were largely confined to *Allamakee*, *Clayton*, and *Dubuque* and especially Effigy Mounds NM and Mines of Spain (m.ob.). Away from there, 1–3 were found at Lacey-Keosauqua SP and L Sugema *Van Buren* (AB, JG, CH, SD) and singles 1 Jun at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF), 5 Jun at West Amana *Iowa* (Vicky & Gordon Tucker), and 6 Jun at Lick Creek Unit *Lee* (MP). Most: 8 on 9 Jun at Yellow River SF *Allamakee* (TM).

Northern Parula: Reports came from 16 counties, mostly in the eastern third of Iowa but west to *Polk*, *Warren*, and *Madison* (m.ob.) and up to 3 from 4 Jun to 7 Jul at Waubonsie SP *Fremont* (JoC, SS). Most: 5 on 4 Jul at Lacey-Keosauqua SP *Van Buren* (AB).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: One 29 Jul in Marion *Linn* (Jim Durbin) was probably an early migrant.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: All: 2 on 3 Jun at Harvest Preserve *Johnson* (JM-details) was a record late date. The only other summer report was one 26 Jul 1990.

Pine Warbler: All: one 23, 25 Jun at Farmington Unit *Van Buren* (JG, DAS), one 23 Jun at Donnellson Unit Lee (SJD), and one 19 Jul at Saylorville *Polk* (Jeff Aufman).

Yellow-throated Warbler: Reports came from 11 counties, mostly along the Mississippi R and mostly of single birds (m.ob.). Other reports came from near the Des Moines R in *Polk* and *Van Buren* and the Cedar R in *Black Hawk* and *Johnson* (m.ob.). Others were in Ames (KG) and near Story City (POR) in *Story*. Most: 4 on 22 Jul at Eagle Point P *Clinton* (EO).

PRAIRIE WARBLER: A continuing bird from spring was seen 1–21 Jun at Croton Unit *Lee* (BCC-ph, m.ob.). This is the third summer in the last 10 years that the species has been found in Iowa.

Summer Tanager: From 1 to 3 were found in 18 counties in the southern half of Iowa north to *Boone*, *Greene*, and *Story* (m.ob.).

Scarlet Tanager: From 1 to 4 were found in 45 counties throughout Iowa (m.ob.). One 7 Jul at Gitchie Manitou *Lyon* (PB) was in Iowa's northwestern corner.

Blue Grosbeak: This species' range continues to expand. Besides the usual birds along Iowa's western border east to *Osceola*, *Clay*, *Crawford*, *Adair*, and *Ringgold*, birds were found in *Polk*, *Dallas*, *Madison*, and *Marshall* in central Iowa, in *Floyd*, *Franklin*, and *Worth* in north-central Iowa, and in *Van Buren*, *Des Moines*, *Muscatine*, *Keokuk*, *Johnson*, *Linn*, *Black Hawk*, and *Bremer* in southeastern and east-central Iowa (m.ob.). Most: 10 on 9 Jun at Big Sand Mound S Pre *Muscatine* (KJM).

Dickcissel: One of the most commonly reported species with more than 1300 eBird reports. Found statewide but relatively uncommon in the northeastern corner with few reports from *Fayette* and *Winneshiek* (m.ob.) and only two reports from *Clayton* (PDBS, Carl Schwartz). In *Allamakee*, one was reported 18 Jun at Yellow River SF (Damon Haan) and several reported 14 Jul at Blackhawk Point WA included a high of 11 birds (SF).

CONTRIBUTORS

Danny Akers	DAk	eBird reporter
Pam Allen	PHA	West Des Moines
Reid Allen	RIA	West Des Moines
Jennifer Anderson	JA	eBird reporter
Kristin & John Anderson	KJA	eBird reporters
Sharon Bauer	SB	eBird reporter
Dick Bierman	DBi	Cherokee
Peter Binstock	PB	eBird reporter
John Bissell	JB	Grimes
Aaron Brees	AB	Polk City
Ethan Brown	EB	eBird reporter
Mark Brown	MHB	North Liberty
Jason Caddy	JaC	eBird reporter
Jane Capozzelli	JCa	eBird reporter
John Carlini	JoC	eBird reporter
Brandon Caswell	BCC	Cedar Rapids
Raymond L. Cummins	RLC	Ankeny
Dominique De Caprona	DD	eBird reporter
Carla Deluchi	CD	eBird reporter
Stephen J. Dinsmore	SJD	Ames
Tom Dougherty	TD	eBird reporter
Seth Dudley	SD	eBird reporter
David Eastman	DGE	eBird reporter
Chris R. Edwards	CRE	Solon
Bery Engebretsen	BE	Urbandale
Carolyn Fischer	CJF	Mason City
Sean Fitzpatrick	SF	eBird reporter
Jim Forde	JF	Cedar Rapids
Charles R. Fuller	CF	Burlington
James L. Fuller	JLF	Iowa City
Jay Gilliam	JG	eBird reporter
Ian Godwin	IG	eBird reporter
Rita Goranson	RG	Mason City
Tyler Grant	TG	eBird reporter
David Griffin	DG	eBird reporter
Karl Grotheer	KG	eBird reporter
Damon Haan	DHa	eBird reporter
Tyler Harms	TMH	Ames
Doug C. Harr	DCH	Ogden
Candace Havely	CH	eBird reporter
Riley Henry	RH	eBird reporter
Dean Hester	DHe	eBird reporter
Bill Huser	BH	eBird reporter
Thomas Johnson	TNJ	Centerville
Joe Jungers	JJ	eBird reporter
Donna Kelly	DK	eBird reporter
Matthew C. Kenne	MCK	Algona
Craig Kruse	CK	eBird reported
Connor Langan	CL	eBird reporter
Tucker Lutter	TL	eBird reporter
James McCoy	JM	eBird reporter
Steve McInnes	SMc	eBird reporter
Susan McInnes	SM	eBird reporter
Kelly J. McKay	KJM	Hampton, IL
Sam Manning	SM	eBird reporter
Tony Moline	TM	eBird reporter
Jacob Newton	JN	eBird reporter
Wolf Oesterreich	WO	Ames
Eric Ollie	EO	eBird reporter
Shane Patterson	SP	eBird reporter
Pete Pedersen	PPe	eBird reporter
Pam Pfautsch	PP	eBird reporter
Mark Proescholdt	MP	Liscomb
Susan Quinn	SQ	eBird reporter
Edward Raynor	ER	eBird reporter
Billy Reiter-Marolf	BR	eBird reporter
Mark Roberts	MR	Grand Mound
Paul Roisen	POR	eBird reporter
Richard Sayles	RS	eBird reporter
Tom Schilke	TSS	Waterloo
Lee A. Schoenewe	LAS	Spencer
Shari Schwartz	SS	eBird reporter
David Shealer	DAS	eBird reporter
Stephanie Shepherd	SSh	Boone
Dana Siefer	DS	eBird reporter
Ross Silcock	WRS	eBird reporter
Paul Skrade	PDBS	Decorah
Stuart Sparkman	SCS	Des Moines
Tommy Stone	TGS	Waterloo
Dennis Thompson	DTh	Johnston
R. J. Thompson	RJT	eBird reporter
Karen Viste-Sparkman	KVS	Des Moines
Gerald Von Ehwegen	GLV	Sioux City
Bob Walton	BW	eBird reporter
Hank Zaletel	HZ	Nevada

COMMENT

I received more information for this article than any previous one I have done. Besides 897 reports (a report = an individual sighting) to the IOU website and another 1170 reports sent directly to me, I received some 56,000 reports of eBird sightings during the summer. Besides the individuals listed above and others named individually in the article, hundreds of others provided eBird reports that are not cited. As always, I am indebted to all who reported their sightings. Without those reports, this article would not be possible. I also am indebted to Stephen J. Dinsmore who ferreted out a number of interesting sightings that would have otherwise been missed.

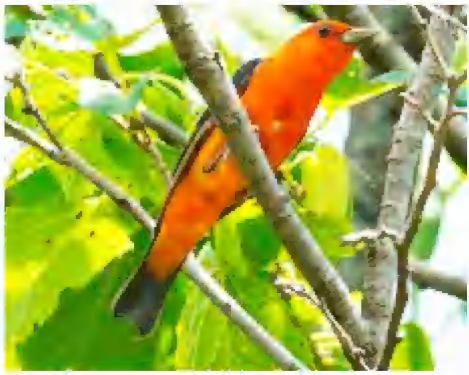
Management of all of these data has become an increasingly challenging task for this computer-naïve person. Ann Johnson retrieved the original eBird report for Iowa and put it into a useable format and Tyler Harms removed the reports of some 50 common species, trimming that huge file to a more manageable 16,950 reports which made it much easier to compile this report. Those reports, plus the ones from the website and those sent directly to me, still are a lot of information to review and try to summarize, and a lot of interesting material doesn't appear in this article. Paul Skrade, an avid eBird user, kindly used his skills with that system to look for further information on some of the eBird reports. I am indebted to all of these people for their assistance.

A total of 169 species and one hybrid are covered in this report, the same as last year and more than the average of 161 species for summers 2012–2016. Besides the 169 included in the report, another 56 species were either reported to the IOU website, to me personally, or to eBird, making a total of 225 species found in Iowa this summer. This is the same as the 225 found in 2016 and above the average of 219 over the past five years. The 56 species that were reported but not included here are mostly fairly common to abundant species that are found statewide. A number of species that usually are found somewhere in Iowa during summer were not reported this year including Piping Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, Dunlin, Western Sandpiper, Red-necked Phalarope, Bonaparte's Gull, Black-billed Magpie, and Bewick's Wren.

LITERATURE CITED

Dinsmore, S. J. 2013. Hybrid Black-headed x Ring-billed Gull in Dickinson County. *Iowa Bird Life* 83:160–161.

646 Mallory Hill Drive, The Villages, FL 32162 (oldcoot@iastate.edu)



Scarlet Tanager, Concord Ave, Plymouth, *11 Jul 2018. Photograph by Paul Roisen, Sioux City, IA.*

Fall 2018 Meeting Summary

Pip Fisher

The fall IOU meeting was held 28–30 September 2018 at the Ventura Community Center and hosted by members of the Mason City Bird Club. The meeting began on Friday evening with a lot of socializing with old and new friends, a perusal of the many items available in the Silent Auction, and of course signing up for the next morning's field trips.

After an overcast, yet productive, Saturday morning of birding field trips, IOU meeting attendees enjoyed three interesting presentations during the afternoon.

Local bird photographer Bruce McKee gave a talk about "Better Backyard Bird Photography", filled with many very useful tips and tricks that anyone can use, such as:

- Remove window screens and open windows for sharper images
- Use a tripod or a bean bag/pillow to steady camera whenever possible
- Mount tree limbs and branches in your backyard for a more natural-looking photo
- Visit your local nature center or bird blind if you can't have bird feeders or are seeking to photograph different birds than what you have at home
- Consider mounting a GoPro camera for taking video of birds at your feeders
- Purchase or construct a bird blind at home to get up close to birds in your backyard. This can be as simple as a camouflage screen draped over your body with a hole for your camera lens.
- Always aim to keep the eyes of the bird in focus

The next presentation was given by Emilee Novak, a student of Professor Paul Skrade and a senior at Upper Iowa University. Emilee presented her research project in which she studied "Song Variations of Cerulean Warblers in Northeast Iowa." Emilee studied previously recorded songs, as well as recording male Cerulean Warblers in the Yellow River State Forest (SF). Although the Yellow River SF is an area in the far western edge of the Cerulean's range, there is an unusually high concentration of Cerulean Warblers breeding there, so was an ideal place to study singing males on their territories. Emilee studied the birds in the morning as well as afternoon times, from May until late June and found that as the breeding season wound down, the song length as well as variation decreased. In the future, Emilee hopes another student will continue

to study individual Cerulean Warblers in the Yellow River SF. Part of the funding for Emilee's study was provided by the IOU to support youth studying bird related topics and to increase overall knowledge of this declining species.

T.J. Herrick, IDNR Wildlife Biologist gave an informative account about the history and management of the Union Hills Waterfowl Production Area (WPA) in Cerro Gordo County, which is the largest WPA in all of Iowa. Union Hills WPA encompasses over 2200 acres, with the first pieces of land acquired in 1991. Of that 2200 acres, 450 acres are a waterfowl refuge, with more than 40 distinct wetlands. Grassland bird species such as Henslow's Sparrow, Bobolink, and Upland Sandpipers breed in the WPA, and in the wetlands species like Northern Pintails, Redheads, American Bitterns, and Sandhill Cranes may be found nesting. Plants like the Small White Lady's-Slipper (*Cypripedium candidum*), a species of special concern in Iowa, can be found blooming along wet prairie edges there in May and June. T.J. stated that WPAs such as Union Hills are bought almost exclusively by funds raised through the purchase of Waterfowl/Duck stamps (keep buying those stamps!).

The keynote speaker of the weekend was author, editor, researcher, and self-appointed "Bird Man" Noah Strycker. Many in the birding community are familiar with Noah for his global "Big Year" that he completed in 2015, seeing more than half of the known species of birds in the world, 6042, and visiting all 7 continents and 41 countries. He is also a best-selling author of four books, *The Thing with Feathers*, *Among Penguins*, *Birding Without Borders*, and his latest book, *Birds of the Photo Ark*.

Noah described getting some of his inspiration for doing a global big year from icons such as Roger Tory Peterson and the British birding couple Ruth Miller and Alan Davies, who had completed a global big year in 2008, seeing 4341 species of birds. Noah's rules for his big year were simple. Each bird he saw had to be seen by at least one other local birder, no hired guides. He simplified his traveling by scanning all the bird ID guides he would need into his phone. He also made a point to start his journey in Antarctica, not a place commonly thought of as particularly "birdy," because he wanted to experience not just the birds of a place, but also the people, landscapes, and cultures. Noah also wanted to see common birds where they're supposed to be seen, not necessarily vagrants. When his big year had come to an end, Noah said that what he remembers more than all the birds were the people he met and the experiences he had shared.

Sunday morning arrived with cold moisture but that did not deter the intrepid birders who continued adding to the weekend list. An incredible 152 species were recorded including eighteen lingering warblers. Scope views of Nelson's Sparrow were a highlight for many and at least 10 birders added life birds to their lists over the weekend.

We would like to acknowledge the numerous people who made the 2018 Fall IOU meeting such an outstanding success. The number of participants and species was excellent for a fall meeting but that is only part of the story. Five field trip leaders, five assistant leaders, and 8 "sweeps" allowed for the second largest number of fall species since 2005. Thank you to the people behind the scenes who organized the meeting, the "Mason City 7" who handled the field trips, the Friday night food and beverages as well as tons of set-up and clean-up hours, and the seventeen "weekend buddies" who guided the twenty first time attendees through the weekend. Many commented on the camaraderie that they felt from the entire group this weekend.

Registered Attendance – 94 (20 first time attendees)

Ames – Tim Garner, Floramay Miller, Steve Miller, Eric Ollie
Bettendorf – Cathy Konrad
Boone – Karl Jungbluth
Buffalo – Richard Sayles
Burlington – Ted Francis
Cambridge – Mark Carson
Cedar Falls – Joel Haack, Linda Haack
Cedar Rapids – Michael Becker, Brandon Caswell
Clermont – Cathy Wittman, Charles Wittman
Coralville – Raychel Pins, Dan Rose, Linda Rudolph, Gerry Tetrault, Richard Tetrault
Decorah – Paul Skrade
Des Moines – Calliope McGinnis Cecil, John Cecil, Robert Cecil, Diane Dentlinger, Stuart Sparkman, Karen Viste-Sparkman
Elma – Mary Jo Hartogh
Ely – Randall Scheiner
Gibbsville – Carol Fisher, Lincoln Fisher, Pip Fisher
Grimes – John Bissell
Hospers – Joe Jungers, Karla Jungers
Iowa City – Gerald Denning, Karen Disbrow, Nola Edwards, Victor Edwards, Barb Fisher–Krueger, Lois Hughes, Terri Macey, James McCoy, Linda Quinn
Iowa Falls – Robert Frenchick, Nancy Slife
Johnston – Cecille Thompson, Dennis Thompson
Liscomb – Mark Proescholdt
Marshalltown – Toni Proescholdt
Mason City – Katie Byerly, Carolyn Fischer, Al Goranson, Rita Goranson, Paul Hertzel, Betty Lucas, Tim Lucas, Mike McCann, Curt Nelson, Jim Rose, Carol Styner
Milo – Carol Nash

Muscatine – Merle Ihne
Nevada – Hank Zaletel
North Liberty – Barry Buschelman
Norwalk – Ann Johnson
Ogden – Doug Harr
Oskaloosa – Doug Hunt, Mary Beth Hunt
Ottosen – Jacob Newton
Packwood – Julie Johnston
Riverside – Fawn Bowden
Shenandoah – Keith Dyche
Silver City – Kadynn Hatfield, Linda Hatfield
Sioux City – David Hoferer, Paul Roisen, Maria Rundquist, Rex Rundquist
Spencer – Lee Schoenewe
Spirit Lake – Skip Perkins
Urbandale – Tom Dougherty
Waterloo – Candace Havely, Francis Moore, Tom Schilke
Winterset – Lance Bauer, Sharon Bauer
Rockford, IL – Daniel Galvez, Sheryl Galvez
Mountain Lake, MN – Anne Reese
Omaha, NE – Karen Johnsen, Bobby Walz, Heidi Walz
Eugene, OR – Noah Strycker

14172 NW 130th Ave, Madrid, IA 50156-8044 (pip@pipfish.com)

Birding with Noah Strycker, IOU Fall Meeting, Ventura, Cerro Gordo, *30 Sep 2018. Photograph by Fawn Bowden, Riverside, IA.*

Official Checklist of Iowa Birds 2018 Edition

Ann M. Johnson

The publication of this edition of the Iowa list comes eight years after the last (2010) and incorporates several changes in English and scientific nomenclature as well as changes from the latest American Ornithologists' Society (AOS) checklist, the authoritative source on the taxonomy of North American birds (American Ornithologists' Union and Cooper Ornithological Society merged to form AOS in 2016). There are many changes in the taxonomic order as well as some new families and genera resulting in new scientific names. This list incorporates changes made in the 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, and 59th Supplements to the 1998 AOU Checklist, as published in *Auk* 128:600–613 (2011); 129:573–588 (2012); 130:558–571 (2013); 131:CSi–CSxv (2014); 132:748–764 (2015); 133:544–560 (2016); 134:751–773 (2017); and 135:798–813 (2018).

Much work has been done in the past decade in the world of DNA sequencing with new discoveries of species relationships published each year. Suppositions about species and their close relatives based on less scientific criteria have been shown to be false, resulting in major changes in checklists of birds. On one level, relationships among species within a given group of birds (family or order) have been found to be different from long-time suppositions, leading to major changes in the order in which those species are listed. The order of listing birds within several Iowa groups including dabbling ducks, sandpipers, mimics, vireos, warblers, doves, wrens, and finches, has been changed greatly and is reflected in this latest checklist. Changes in our understanding of the relationships between higher groups (families or orders) has also changed, leading to dramatic changes in the order in which those groups are listed. For example, who knew that falcons, long considered to be a type of hawk, were in fact more closely related to parrots, or that loons and grebes were not closely related as had long been thought? This checklist is but a snapshot in time, reflecting current thinking as of the end of 2018 and the checklist will certainly change further in the future. The full American Ornithological Society checklist of birds is available through that organization's webpage (http://checklist.aou.org/taxa).

This Iowa list includes all records through December 2018. There are 429 species on the list, up from 424 in 2010 (*IBL* 81:91–101), 413 in 2005 (*IBL* 76:163–176), 401 in 1998 (*IBL* 68:73–84), 397 in 1995 (*IBL* 66:76–85), 384 in 1991 (*IBL* 61:101–109), 371 in 1986 (*IBL* 56:46–55), and 361 in 1982 (*IBL* 52:67–76). Species added since 2010 are Inca Dove, Brown Booby, Glaucous-winged Gull, Broad-billed Hummingbird, Bar-tailed Godwit, and White-tailed Kite. One species, Thayer's Gull, was lost from the state checklist when it was lumped with Iceland Gull.

The categories for status, nesting, and type of record are given below, with the number of species in each category in parentheses. The status of species seen in 3, 4, or 8 of the last 10 years is determined by majority vote of the Records Committee.

Regular = seen every year or nearly every year, at least 8 of last 10 years (307 species)
Casual = seen many years but not all, at least 3, and less than 9, of last 10 years (27 species)
Accidental = seen once to several times, but less than 4 of last 10 years (91 species)
Extirpated = once regular or casual, but not seen in 50 years (1 species)
Extinct = no longer seen anywhere (3 species)

N = definite evidence of having nested in the state (211 species)
N? = probable evidence of nesting in the state (2 species)
S = existing specimen (316 species)
P = photograph published or on file (99 species)
R = recording on file (2 species)
D = written description or published report on file (12 species)

Changes in the Iowa list since the last edition that resulted from changes in the AOU/AOS Checklist are given below.

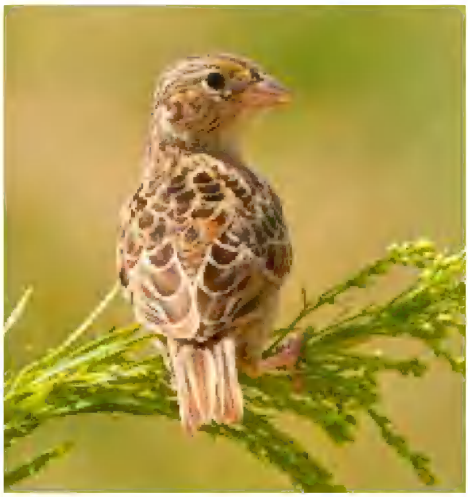
Changes in English names:

Green Violetear becomes Mexican Violetear
Gray Jay becomes Canada Jay
Le Conte's Sparrow becomes LeConte's Sparrow

Changes in scientific names:

Snow Goose (*Anser caerulescens*)
Ross's Goose (*Anser rossii*)
Garganey (*Spatula querquedula*)
Blue-winged Teal (*Spatula discors*)
Cinnamon Teal (*Spatula cyanoptera*)
Northern Shoveler (*Spatula clypeata*)
Gadwall (*Mareca strepera*)
Eurasian Wigeon (*Mareca penelope*)
American Wigeon (*Mareca americana*)
Chuck-will's-widow (*Antrostomus carolinensis*)
Eastern Whip-poor-will (*Antrostomus vociferus*)
Purple Gallinule (*Porphyrio martinicus*)
Sandhill Crane (*Antigone canadensis*)
Ruff (*Calidris pugnax*)
Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Calidris subruficollis*)
Northern Harrier (*Circus hudsonius*)
Downy Woodpecker (*Dryobates pubescens*)
Hairy Woodpecker (*Dryobates villosus*)

Yellow-breasted Chat, Ringgold WA, Ringgold, *6 Jul 2018. Photograph by Doug Harr, Ogden, IA.*



Grasshopper Sparrow, Woodbury, *30 Jul 2018. Photograph by Paul Roisen, Sioux City, IA.*

Sandhill Crane and colt, Franklin, *14 Jul 2018. Photograph by Bruce G. McKee, Mason City, IA.*

Prothonotary Warbler, Cedar River Crossing, Johnson, *1 Jul 2018. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*

Marsh Wren, Ventura Marsh, Cerro Gordo, *23 Jul 2018. Photograph by Bruce G. McKee, Mason City, IA.*

Vesper Sparrow, Woodbury, *30 Jul 2018. Photograph by Paul Roisen, Sioux City, IA.*

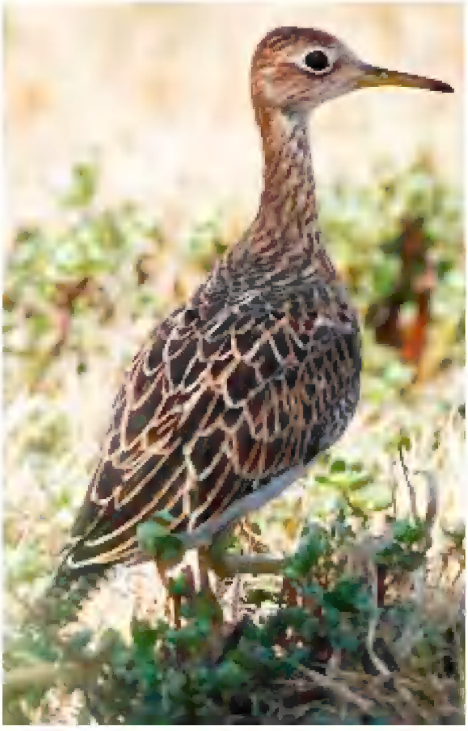
Great Crested Flycatcher, Hawkeye WA, Johnson, *7 Jul 2018. Photograph by Jim Scheib, Iowa City, IA.*

Bell's Vireo, Owego Wetlands, Woodbury, *11 Jul 2018. Photograph by Paul Roisen, Sioux City, IA.*

Bell's Vireo, Red Feather Prairie, Polk, *7 Jun 2018. Photograph by Doug Harr, Ogden, IA.*

Least Bittern, Ventura Marsh, Cerro Gordo, *23 Jul 2018. Photograph by Bruce G. McKee, Mason City, IA.*

Yellow-throated Warbler, Eagle Point Park, Clinton, *22 Jul 2018. Photograph by Eric Ollie, Ames, IA.*



Upland Sandpiper, Blue Grass Sod Farm, Linn, *25 Jul 2018. Photograph by Brandon Caswell, Marion, IA.*

Henslow's Sparrow, Red Feather Prairie, Polk, *7 Jun 2018. Photograph by Doug Harr, Ogden, IA.*

Western Kingbird, Polk, *5 Jul 2018. Photograph by Clayton Will, Madrid, IA.*

Yellow-breasted Chat, Red Cedar WA, Muscatine, *24 Jun 2018. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*

Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Riverview Park, Black Hawk, *18 Jun 2018. Photograph by Tom Schilke, Waterloo, IA.*

Common Gallinule, Ventura Marsh, Cerro Gordo, *23 Jul 2018. Photograph by Bruce G. McKee, Mason City, IA.*

Scarlet Tanager, Red Cedar WA, Muscatine, *24 Jun 2018. Photograph by Mark Brown, North Liberty, IA.*

Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Ogden, Boone, *4 Jun 2018. Photograph by Doug Harr, Ogden, IA.*

Northern Shrike (*Lanius borealis*)
House Finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus*)
Purple Finch (*Haemorhous purpureus*)
American Tree Sparrow (*Spizelloides arborea*)
Baird's Sparrow (*Centronyx bairdii*)
Henslow's Sparrow (*Centronyx henslowi*)
LeConte's Sparrow (*Ammospiza leconteii*)
Nelson's Sparrow (*Ammospiza nelsoni*)
Worm-eating Warbler (*Helmitheros vermivorum*)
MacGillivray's Warbler (*Geothlypis tolmiei*)
Mourning Warbler (*Geothlypis philadelphia*)
Kentucky Warbler (*Geothlypis formosa*)
Hooded Warbler (*Setophaga citrina*)
Cape May Warbler (*Setophaga tigrina*)
Cerulean Warbler (*Setophaga cerulea*)
Northern Parula (*Setophaga americana*)
Magnolia Warbler (*Setophaga magnolia*)
Bay-breasted Warbler (*Setophaga castanea*)
Blackburnian Warbler (*Setophaga fusca*)
Yellow Warbler (*Setophaga petechia*)
Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Setophaga pensylvanica*)
Blackpoll Warbler (*Setophaga striata*)
Black-throated Blue Warbler (*Setophaga caerulescens*)
Palm Warbler (*Setophaga palmarum*)
Pine Warbler (*Setophaga pinus*)
Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Setophaga coronata*)
Yellow-throated Warbler (*Setophaga dominica*)
Prairie Warbler (*Setophaga discolor*)
Black-throated Gray Warbler (*Setophaga nigrescens*)
Townsend's Warbler (*Setophaga townsendi*)
Black-throated Green Warbler (*Setophaga virens*)
Canada Warbler (*Cardellina canadensis*)
Wilson's Warbler (*Cardellina pusilla*)

New families:

Passerellidae (New World Sparrows and Towhees)
Icteriidae (Yellow-breasted Chat)
Icteridae (New World Blackbirds)
Parulidae (New World Warblers)
Cardinalidae (Cardinals and Allies)

Changes in the Iowa list as a result of splits in the AOU checklist:

Common Gallinule (*Gallinula galeata*) split from Old World Common Moorhen (*G. chloropus*)

Snowy Plover (*Charadrius nivosus*) split from Old World Kentish Plover (*C. alexandrinus*)

Changes in the Iowa list as a result of lumps in the AOU checklist:
Thayer's Gull (now a subspecies of Iceland Gull [*Larus glaucoides*])

Changes in the Iowa list that are the result of new information and Records Committee decisions are summarized as follows:

Species added (Accidental): Inca Dove, Brown Booby, Glaucous-winged Gull, Broad-billed Hummingbird, Bar-tailed Godwit, and White-tailed Kite

Casual to Regular: Neotropic Cormorant, Black-legged Kittiwake, Lazuli Bunting

Accidental to Casual: Mottled Duck, Harlequin Duck, Glossy Ibis, Swallow-tailed Kite, Rufous Hummingbird, Say's Phoebe

Casual to Accidental: Brant, Barrow's Goldeneye, Clark's Grebe, Brown Pelican, Tricolored Heron

Regular to Casual: Little Blue Heron, Red Knot, Mew Gull

Regular to Accidental: Greater Prairie-Chicken, Black-headed Gull

New to Nesting: Horned Grebe, Neotropic Cormorant, Black-necked Stilt, American Avocet, Spotted Towhee

Photograph to Specimen: Boreal Owl, Great-tailed Grackle, Eurasian Tree Sparrow, Worm-eating Warbler

Photograph, new species: Inca Dove, Brown Booby, Glaucous-winged Gull, Broad-billed Hummingbird, Bar-tailed Godwit, and White-tailed Kite

Documentation to Photograph: Fish Crow

Many thanks to Jim Dinsmore for his assistance in sifting through the numerous checklist changes and synthesizing the information into a coherent summary.

5362 120th Avenue, Norwalk, IA 50211 (aj@hologrambirds.com)

Official Checklist of Iowa Birds, 2018 Edition

N = Nesting, N? = Possible nesting, S = Specimen, P = Photograph,
R = Recording, D = Documentation

Order ANSERIFORMES				
Ducks, Geese, Swans, Anatidae				
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	*Dendrocygna autumnalis*	Casual		S
Fulvous Whistling-Duck	*Dendrocygna bicolor*	Accidental		P
Snow Goose	*Anser caerulescens*	Regular		S
Ross's Goose	*Anser rossii*	Regular		S
Greater White-fronted Goose	*Anser albifrons*	Regular		S
Taiga Bean-Goose	*Anser fabalis*	Accidental		P
Brant	*Branta bernicla*	Accidental		S
Cackling Goose	*Branta hutchinsii*	Regular		S
Canada Goose	*Branta canadensis*	Regular	N	S
Mute Swan	*Cygnus olor*	Regular		P
Trumpeter Swan	*Cygnus buccinator*	Regular	N	S
Tundra Swan	*Cygnus columbianus*	Regular		S
Wood Duck	*Aix sponsa*	Regular	N	S
Garganey	*Spatula querquedula*	Accidental		P
Blue-winged Teal	*Spatula discors*	Regular	N	S
Cinnamon Teal	*Spatula cyanoptera*	Regular		P
Northern Shoveler	*Spatula clypeata*	Regular	N	S
Gadwall	*Mareca strepera*	Regular	N	S
Eurasian Wigeon	*Mareca penelope*	Accidental		S
American Wigeon	*Mareca americana*	Regular	N	S
Mallard	*Anas platyrhynchos*	Regular	N	S
American Black Duck	*Anas rubripes*	Regular	N	S
Mottled Duck	*Anas fulvigula*	Casual		P
Northern Pintail	*Anas acuta*	Regular	N	S
Green-winged Teal	*Anas crecca*	Regular	N	S
Canvasback	*Aythya valisineria*	Regular	N	S
Redhead	*Aythya americana*	Regular	N	S
Ring-necked Duck	*Aythya collaris*	Regular	N	S
Greater Scaup	*Aythya marila*	Regular		S
Lesser Scaup	*Aythya affinis*	Regular	N	S
King Eider	*Somateria spectabilis*	Accidental		S
Common Eider	*Somateria mollissima*	Accidental		P
Harlequin Duck	*Histrionicus histrionicus*	Casual		S
Surf Scoter	*Melanitta perspicillata*	Regular		S
White-winged Scoter	*Melanitta fusca*	Regular		S
Black Scoter	*Melanitta americana*	Regular		S
Long-tailed Duck	*Clangula hyemalis*	Regular		S
Bufflehead	*Bucephala albeola*	Regular	N	S
Common Goldeneye	*Bucephala clangula*	Regular		S
Barrow's Goldeneye	*Bucephala islandica*	Accidental		P
Hooded Merganser	*Lophodytes cucullatus*	Regular	N	S
Common Merganser	*Mergus merganser*	Regular		S
Red-breasted Merganser	*Mergus serrator*	Regular		S
Ruddy Duck	*Oxyura jamaicensis*	Regular	N	S

Order GALLIFORMES				
New World Quail, Odontophoridae				
Northern Bobwhite	*Colinus virginianus*	Regular	N	S
Partridges, Grouse, Turkeys, and Old World Quail, Phasianidae				
Gray Partridge	*Perdix perdix*	Regular	N	S
Ring-necked Pheasant	*Phasianus colchicus*	Regular	N	S
Ruffed Grouse	*Bonasa umbellus*	Regular	N	S
Sharp-tailed Grouse	*Tympanuchus phasianellus*	Extirpated		S
Greater Prairie-Chicken	*Tympanuchus cupido*	Accidental	N	S
Wild Turkey	*Meleagris gallopavo*	Regular	N	S
Order PODICIPEDIFORMES				
Grebes, Podicipedidae				
Pied-billed Grebe	*Podilymbus podiceps*	Regular	N	S
Horned Grebe	*Podiceps auritus*	Regular	N	S
Red-necked Grebe	*Podiceps grisegena*	Regular	N	S
Eared Grebe	*Podiceps nigricollis*	Regular	N	S
Western Grebe	*Aechmophorus occidentalis*	Regular	N	S
Clark's Grebe	*Aechmophorus clarkii*	Accidental		P
Order COLUMBIFORMES				
Pigeons, Doves, Columbidae				
Rock Pigeon	*Columba livia*	Regular	N	S
Eurasian Collared-Dove	*Streptopelia decaocto*	Regular	N	S
Passenger Pigeon	*Ectopistes migratorius*	Extinct	N	S
Inca Dove	*Columbina inca*	Accidental		P
Common Ground-Dove	*Columbina passerina*	Accidental		P
White-winged Dove	*Zenaida asiatica*	Regular	N	P
Mourning Dove	*Zenaida macroura*	Regular	N	S
Order CUCULIFORMES				
Cuckoos, Roadrunners, Anis, Cuculidae				
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	*Coccyzus americanus*	Regular	N	S
Black-billed Cuckoo	*Coccyzus erythropthalmus*	Regular	N	S
Groove-billed Ani	*Crotophaga sulcirostris*	Accidental		P
Order CAPRIMULGIFORMES				
Goatsuckers, Caprimulgidae				
Common Nighthawk	*Chordeiles minor*	Regular	N	S
Chuck-will's-widow	*Antrostomus carolinensis*	Regular	N	P
Eastern Whip-poor-will	*Antrostomus vociferus*	Regular	N	S
Order APODIFORMES				
Swifts, Apodidae				
Chimney Swift	*Chaetura pelagica*	Regular	N	S
Hummingbirds, Trochilidae				
Mexican Violetear	*Colibri thalassinus*	Accidental		P
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	*Archilochus colubris*	Regular	N	S
Anna's Hummingbird	*Calypte anna*	Accidental		P
Rufous Hummingbird	*Selasphorus rufus*	Casual		S
Broad-billed Hummingbird	*Cynanthus latirostris*	Accidental		P

Order GRUIFORMES				
Rails, Gallinules, and Coots, Rallidae				
Yellow Rail	*Coturnicops noveboracensis*	Regular		S
Black Rail	*Laterallus jamaicensis*	Accidental		R
King Rail	*Rallus elegans*	Casual	N	S
Virginia Rail	*Rallus limicola*	Regular	N	S
Sora	*Porzana carolina*	Regular	N	S
Purple Gallinule	*Porphyrio martinicus*	Accidental		S
Common Gallinule	*Gallinula galeata*	Regular	N	S
American Coot	*Fulica americana*	Regular	N	S
Cranes, Gruidae				
Sandhill Crane	*Antigone canadensis*	Regular	N	S
Whooping Crane	*Grus americana*	Accidental	N	S
Order CHARADRIIFORMES				
Stilts and Avocets, Recurvirostridae				
Black-necked Stilt	*Himantopus mexicanus*	Regular	N	P
American Avocet	*Recurvirostra americana*	Regular	N	S
Lapwings and Plovers, Charadriidae				
Black-bellied Plover	*Pluvialis squatarola*	Regular		S
American Golden-Plover	*Pluvialis dominica*	Regular		S
Snowy Plover	*Charadrius nivosus*	Casual		P
Semipalmated Plover	*Charadrius semipalmatus*	Regular		S
Piping Plover	*Charadrius melodus*	Regular	N	S
Killdeer	*Charadrius vociferus*	Regular	N	S
Sandpipers, Phalaropes, and Allies, Scolopacidae				
Upland Sandpiper	*Bartramia longicauda*	Regular	N	S
Whimbrel	*Numenius phaeopus*	Regular		P
Eskimo Curlew	*Numenius borealis*	Extinct		S
Long-billed Curlew	*Numenius americanus*	Accidental	N	S
Bar-tailed Godwit	*Limosa lapponica*	Accidental		P
Hudsonian Godwit	*Limosa haemastica*	Regular		S
Marbled Godwit	*Limosa fedoa*	Regular	N	S
Ruddy Turnstone	*Arenaria interpres*	Regular		S
Red Knot	*Calidris canutus*	Casual		S
Ruff	*Calidris pugnax*	Casual		S
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	*Calidris acuminata*	Accidental		P
Stilt Sandpiper	*Calidris himantopus*	Regular		S
Curlew Sandpiper	*Calidris ferruginea*	Accidental		P
Sanderling	*Calidris alba*	Regular		S
Dunlin	*Calidris alpina*	Regular		S
Baird's Sandpiper	*Calidris bairdii*	Regular		S
Least Sandpiper	*Calidris minutilla*	Regular		S
White-rumped Sandpiper	*Calidris fuscicollis*	Regular		S
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	*Calidris subruficollis*	Regular		S
Pectoral Sandpiper	*Calidris melanotos*	Regular		S
Semipalmated Sandpiper	*Calidris pusilla*	Regular		S
Western Sandpiper	*Calidris mauri*	Regular		S

Short-billed Dowitcher	*Limnodromus griseus*	Regular		S
Long-billed Dowitcher	*Limnodromus scolopaceus*	Regular		S
American Woodcock	*Scolopax minor*	Regular	N	S
Wilson's Snipe	*Gallinago delicata*	Regular	N	S
Spotted Sandpiper	*Actitis macularius*	Regular	N	S
Solitary Sandpiper	*Tringa solitaria*	Regular		S
Lesser Yellowlegs	*Tringa flavipes*	Regular		S
Willet	*Tringa semipalmata*	Regular		S
Greater Yellowlegs	*Tringa melanoleuca*	Regular		S
Wilson's Phalarope	*Phalaropus tricolor*	Regular	N	S
Red-necked Phalarope	*Phalaropus lobatus*	Regular		S
Red Phalarope	*Phalaropus fulicarius*	Casual		P
Skuas and Jaegers, Stercorariidae				
Pomarine Jaeger	*Stercorarius pomarinus*	Accidental		P
Parasitic Jaeger	*Stercorarius parasiticus*	Accidental		S
Long-tailed Jaeger	*Stercorarius longicaudus*	Accidental		S
Auks, Murres, and Puffins, Alcidae				
Thick-billed Murre	*Uria lomvia*	Accidental		D
Long-billed Murrelet	*Brachyramphus perdix*	Accidental		D
Ancient Murrelet	*Synthliboramphus antiquus*	Accidental		D
Gulls, Terns, Skimmers, Laridae				
Black-legged Kittiwake	*Rissa tridactyla*	Regular		P
Ivory Gull	*Pagophila eburnea*	Accidental		P
Sabine's Gull	*Xema sabini*	Regular		S
Bonaparte's Gull	*Chroicocephalus philadelphia*	Regular		S
Black-headed Gull	*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*	Accidental	N?	P
Little Gull	*Hydrocoloeus minutus*	Casual		P
Ross's Gull	*Rhodostethia rosea*	Accidental		P
Laughing Gull	*Leucophaeus atricilla*	Regular		P
Franklin's Gull	*Leucophaeus pipixcan*	Regular	N	S
Black-tailed Gull	*Larus crassirostris*	Accidental		P
Mew Gull	*Larus canus*	Accidental		P
Ring-billed Gull	*Larus delawarensis*	Regular	N	S
California Gull	*Larus californicus*	Casual		P
Herring Gull	*Larus argentatus*	Regular	N	S
Iceland Gull	*Larus glaucoides*	Regular		P
Lesser Black-backed Gull	*Larus fuscus*	Regular		P
Slaty-backed Gull	*Larus schistisagus*	Accidental		P
Glaucous-winged Gull	*Larus glaucescens*	Accidental		P
Glaucous Gull	*Larus hyperboreus*	Regular		P
Great Black-backed Gull	*Larus marinus*	Casual		P
Least Tern	*Sternula antillarum*	Regular	N	S
Caspian Tern	*Hydroprogne caspia*	Regular		S
Black Tern	*Chlidonias niger*	Regular	N	S
Common Tern	*Sterna hirundo*	Regular		S
Arctic Tern	*Sterna paradisaea*	Accidental		P
Forster's Tern	*Sterna forsteri*	Regular	N	S
Royal Tern	*Thalasseus maximus*	Accidental		P

Order GAVIIFORMES				
Loons, Gaviidae				
Red-throated Loon	*Gavia stellata*	Regular		P
Pacific Loon	*Gavia pacifica*	Regular		S
Common Loon	*Gavia immer*	Regular	N	S
Yellow-billed Loon	*Gavia adamsii*	Accidental		P
Order PODICIPEDIFORMES				
Storks, Ciconiidae				
Wood Stork	*Mycteria americana*	Accidental		P
Order SULIFORMES				
Frigatebirds, Fregatidae				
Magnificent Frigatebird	*Fregata magnificens*	Accidental		P
Boobies and Gannets, Sulidae				
Brown Booby	*Sula leucogaster*	Accidental		P
Cormorants, Phalacrocoracidae				
Neotropic Cormorant	*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*	Regular	N	P
Double-crested Cormorant	*Phalacrocorax auritus*	Regular	N	S
Darters, Anhingidae				
Anhinga	*Anhinga anhinga*	Accidental		D
Order PELECANIFORMES				
Pelicans, Pelecanidae				
American White Pelican	*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*	Regular	N	S
Brown Pelican	*Pelecanus occidentalis*	Accidental		P
Bitterns, Herons, and Allies, Ardeidae				
American Bittern	*Botaurus lentiginosus*	Regular	N	S
Least Bittern	*Ixobrychus exilis*	Regular	N	S
Great Blue Heron	*Ardea herodias*	Regular	N	S
Great Egret	*Ardea alba*	Regular	N	S
Snowy Egret	*Egretta thula*	Regular		S
Little Blue Heron	*Egretta caerulea*	Casual	N?	P
Tricolored Heron	*Egretta tricolor*	Accidental		P
Reddish Egret	*Egretta rufescens*	Accidental		P
Cattle Egret	*Bubulcus ibis*	Regular	N	S
Green Heron	*Butorides virescens*	Regular	N	S
Black-crowned Night-Heron	*Nycticorax nycticorax*	Regular	N	S
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	*Nyctanassa violacea*	Regular	N	S
Ibises and Spoonbills, Threskiornithidae				
White Ibis	*Eudocimus albus*	Accidental		P
Glossy Ibis	*Plegadis falcinellus*	Casual		P
White-faced Ibis	*Plegadis chihi*	Regular	N	S
Roseate Spoonbill	*Platalea ajaja*	Accidental		P

Order ACCIPITRIFORMES				
New World Vultures, Cathartidae				
Black Vulture	*Coragyps atratus*	Casual		S
Turkey Vulture	*Cathartes aura*	Regular	N	S
Ospreys, Pandionidae				
Osprey	*Pandion haliaetus*	Regular	N	S
Hawks, Kites, Eagles, and Allies, Accipitridae				
White-tailed Kite	*Elanus leucurus*	Accidental		P
Swallow-tailed Kite	*Elanoides forficatus*	Casual	N	S
Golden Eagle	*Aquila chrysaetos*	Regular		S
Northern Harrier	*Circus hudsonius*	Regular	N	S
Sharp-shinned Hawk	*Accipiter striatus*	Regular	N	S
Cooper's Hawk	*Accipiter cooperii*	Regular	N	S
Northern Goshawk	*Accipiter gentilis*	Regular		S
Bald Eagle	*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*	Regular	N	S
Mississippi Kite	*Ictinia mississippiensis*	Regular	N	P
Red-shouldered Hawk	*Buteo lineatus*	Regular	N	S
Broad-winged Hawk	*Buteo platypterus*	Regular	N	S
Swainson's Hawk	*Buteo swainsoni*	Regular	N	S
Red-tailed Hawk	*Buteo jamaicensis*	Regular	N	S
Rough-legged Hawk	*Buteo lagopus*	Regular		S
Ferruginous Hawk	*Buteo regalis*	Regular		P
Order STRIGIFORMES				
Barn Owls, Tytonidae				
Barn Owl	*Tyto alba*	Regular	N	S
Typical Owls, Strigidae				
Eastern Screech-Owl	*Megascops asio*	Regular	N	S
Great Horned Owl	*Bubo virginianus*	Regular	N	S
Snowy Owl	*Bubo scandiacus*	Regular		S
Northern Hawk Owl	*Surnia ulula*	Accidental		P
Burrowing Owl	*Athene cunicularia*	Casual	N	S
Barred Owl	*Strix varia*	Regular	N	S
Great Gray Owl	*Strix nebulosa*	Accidental		S
Long-eared Owl	*Asio otus*	Regular	N	S
Short-eared Owl	*Asio flammeus*	Regular	N	S
Boreal Owl	*Aegolius funereus*	Accidental		S
Northern Saw-whet Owl	*Aegolius acadicus*	Regular		S
Order CORACIIFORMES				
Kingfishers, Alcedinidae				
Belted Kingfisher	*Megaceryle alcyon*	Regular	N	S
Order PICIFORMES				
Woodpeckers, Picidae				
Lewis's Woodpecker	*Melanerpes lewis*	Accidental		P
Red-headed Woodpecker	*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*	Regular	N	S
Acorn Woodpecker	*Melanerpes formicivorus*	Accidental		P
Red-bellied Woodpecker	*Melanerpes carolinus*	Regular	N	S
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	*Sphyrapicus varius*	Regular	N	S
Red-breasted Sapsucker	*Sphyrapicus ruber*	Accidental		P

Black-backed Woodpecker	*Picoides arcticus*	Accidental		P
Downy Woodpecker	*Dryobates pubescens*	Regular	N	S
Hairy Woodpecker	*Dryobates villosus*	Regular	N	S
Northern Flicker	*Colaptes auratus*	Regular	N	S
Pileated Woodpecker	*Dryocopus pileatus*	Regular	N	S
Order FALCONIFORMES				
Caracaras and Falcons, Falconidae				
Crested Caracara	*Caracara cheriway*	Accidental		P
American Kestrel	*Falco sparverius*	Regular	N	S
Merlin	*Falco columbarius*	Regular	N	S
Gyrfalcon	*Falco rusticolus*	Casual		P
Peregrine Falcon	*Falco peregrinus*	Regular	N	S
Prairie Falcon	*Falco mexicanus*	Regular		S
Order PSITTACIFORMES				
Parrots, Psittacidae				
Carolina Parakeet	*Conuropsis carolinensis*	Extinct		D
Order PASSERIFORMES				
Flycatchers, Tyrannidae				
Great Crested Flycatcher	*Myiarchus crinitus*	Regular	N	S
Western Kingbird	*Tyrannus verticalis*	Regular	N	S
Eastern Kingbird	*Tyrannus tyrannus*	Regular	N	S
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	*Tyrannus forficatus*	Regular	N	S
Fork-tailed Flycatcher	*Tyrannus savana*	Accidental		P
Olive-sided Flycatcher	*Contopus cooperi*	Regular		S
Western Wood-Pewee	*Contopus sordidulus*	Accidental		D
Eastern Wood-Pewee	*Contopus virens*	Regular	N	S
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	*Empidonax flaviventris*	Regular		S
Acadian Flycatcher	*Empidonax virescens*	Regular	N	S
Alder Flycatcher	*Empidonax alnorum*	Regular	N	R
Willow Flycatcher	*Empidonax traillii*	Regular	N	S
Least Flycatcher	*Empidonax minimus*	Regular	N	S
Western Flycatcher	*Empidonax difficilis/occidentalis*	Accidental		P
Eastern Phoebe	*Sayornis phoebe*	Regular	N	S
Say's Phoebe	*Sayornis saya*	Casual	N	P
Vermilion Flycatcher	*Pyrocephalus rubinus*	Accidental		P
Shrikes, Laniidae				
Loggerhead Shrike	*Lanius ludovicianus*	Regular	N	S
Northern Shrike	*Lanius borealis*	Regular		S

Vireos, Vireonidae				
White-eyed Vireo	*Vireo griseus*	Regular	N	P
Bell's Vireo	*Vireo bellii*	Regular	N	S
Yellow-throated Vireo	*Vireo flavifrons*	Regular	N	S
Blue-headed Vireo	*Vireo solitarius*	Regular		S
Philadelphia Vireo	*Vireo philadelphicus*	Regular		S
Warbling Vireo	*Vireo gilvus*	Regular	N	S
Red-eyed Vireo	*Vireo olivaceus*	Regular	N	S
Jays, Magpies, Crows, Corvidae				
Canada Jay	*Perisoreus canadensis*	Accidental		P
Pinyon Jay	*Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus*	Accidental		P
Blue Jay	*Cyanocitta cristata*	Regular	N	S
Clark's Nutcracker	*Nucifraga columbiana*	Accidental		S
Black-billed Magpie	*Pica hudsonia*	Regular	N	S
American Crow	*Corvus brachyrhynchos*	Regular	N	S
Fish Crow	*Corvus ossifragus*	Accidental		P
Common Raven	*Corvus corax*	Accidental		S
Larks, Alaudidae				
Horned Lark	*Eremophila alpestris*	Regular	N	S
Swallows, Hirundinidae				
Purple Martin	*Progne subis*	Regular	N	S
Tree Swallow	*Tachycineta bicolor*	Regular	N	S
Violet-green Swallow	*Tachycineta thalassina*	Accidental		P
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*	Regular	N	S
Bank Swallow	*Riparia riparia*	Regular	N	S
Cliff Swallow	*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*	Regular	N	S
Cave Swallow	*Petrochelidon fulva*	Accidental		D
Barn Swallow	*Hirundo rustica*	Regular	N	S
Chickadees, Titmice, Paridae				
Black-capped Chickadee	*Poecile atricapillus*	Regular	N	S
Boreal Chickadee	*Poecile hudsonicus*	Accidental		P
Tufted Titmouse	*Baeolophus bicolor*	Regular	N	S
Nuthatches, Sittidae				
Red-breasted Nuthatch	*Sitta canadensis*	Regular	N	S
White-breasted Nuthatch	*Sitta carolinensis*	Regular	N	S
Pygmy Nuthatch	*Sitta pygmaea*	Accidental		P
Creepers, Certhiidae				
Brown Creeper	*Certhia americana*	Regular	N	S
Wrens, Troglodytidae				
Rock Wren	*Salpinctes obsoletus*	Casual	N	P
House Wren	*Troglodytes aedon*	Regular	N	S
Pacific Wren	*Troglodytes pacificus*	Accidental		D
Winter Wren	*Troglodytes hiemalis*	Regular	N	S
Sedge Wren	*Cistothorus platensis*	Regular	N	S
Marsh Wren	*Cistothorus palustris*	Regular	N	S
Carolina Wren	*Thryothorus ludovicianus*	Regular	N	S
Bewick's Wren	*Thryomanes bewickii*	Regular	N	S

Gnatcatchers, Polioptilidae				
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	*Polioptila caerulea*	Regular	N	S
Kinglets, Regulidae				
Golden-crowned Kinglet	*Regulus satrapa*	Regular		S
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	*Regulus calendula*	Regular		S
Thrushes, Turdidae				
Eastern Bluebird	*Sialia sialis*	Regular	N	S
Mountain Bluebird	*Sialia currucoides*	Casual		P
Townsend's Solitaire	*Myadestes townsendi*	Regular		P
Veery	*Catharus fuscescens*	Regular	N	S
Gray-cheeked Thrush	*Catharus minimus*	Regular		S
Swainson's Thrush	*Catharus ustulatus*	Regular		S
Hermit Thrush	*Catharus guttatus*	Regular		S
Wood Thrush	*Hylocichla mustelinus*	Regular	N	S
American Robin	*Turdus migratorius*	Regular	N	S
Varied Thrush	*Ixoreus naevius*	Casual		S
Mimids, Mimidae				
Gray Catbird	*Dumetella carolinensis*	Regular	N	S
Curve-billed Thrasher	*Toxostoma curvirostre*	Accidental		P
Brown Thrasher	*Toxostoma rufum*	Regular	N	S
Sage Thrasher	*Oreoscoptes montanus*	Accidental		P
Northern Mockingbird	*Mimus polyglottos*	Regular	N	S
Starlings, Sturnidae				
European Starling	*Sturnus vulgaris*	Regular	N	S
Waxwings, Bombycillidae				
Bohemian Waxwing	*Bombycilla garrulus*	Regular		S
Cedar Waxwing	*Bombycilla cedrorum*	Regular	N	S
Old World Sparrows, Passeridae				
House Sparrow	*Passer domesticus*	Regular	N	S
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	*Passer montanus*	Regular	N	S
Pipits, Motacillidae				
American Pipit	*Anthus rubescens*	Regular		S
Sprague's Pipit	*Anthus spragueii*	Casual		P
Finches, Fringillidae				
Brambling	*Fringilla montifringilla*	Accidental		P
Evening Grosbeak	*Coccothraustes vespertinus*	Accidental		S
Pine Grosbeak	*Pinicola enucleator*	Accidental		S
Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch	*Leucosticte tephrocotis*	Accidental		P
House Finch	*Haemorhous mexicanus*	Regular	N	S
Purple Finch	*Haemorhous purpureus*	Regular		S
Common Redpoll	*Acanthis flammea*	Regular		S
Hoary Redpoll	*Acanthis hornemanni*	Accidental		P
Red Crossbill	*Loxia curvirostra*	Regular	N	S
White-winged Crossbill	*Loxia leucoptera*	Regular		S
Pine Siskin	*Spinus pinus*	Regular	N	S
Lesser Goldfinch	*Spinus psaltria*	Accidental		P
American Goldfinch	*Spinus tristis*	Regular	N	S

Longspurs, Snow Bunting, Calcariidae				
Lapland Longspur	*Calcarius lapponicus*	Regular		S
Chestnut-collared Longspur	*Calcarius ornatus*	Accidental		S
Smith's Longspur	*Calcarius pictus*	Regular		S
Snow Bunting	*Plectrophenax nivalis*	Regular		S
Towhees, Sparrows, Passerellidae				
Green-tailed Towhee	*Pipilo chlorurus*	Accidental		P
Spotted Towhee	*Piplio maculatus*	Regular	N	P
Eastern Towhee	*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*	Regular	N	S
American Tree Sparrow	*Spizelloides arborea*	Regular		S
Chipping Sparrow	*Spizella passerina*	Regular	N	S
Clay-colored Sparrow	*Spizella pallida*	Regular	N	S
Field Sparrow	*Spizella pusilla*	Regular	N	S
Vesper Sparrow	*Pooecetes gramineus*	Regular	N	S
Lark Sparrow	*Chondestes grammacus*	Regular	N	S
Black-throated Sparrow	*Amphispiza bilineata*	Accidental		P
Lark Bunting	*Calamospiza melanocorys*	Accidental		P
Savannah Sparrow	*Passerculus sandwichensis*	Regular	N	S
Grasshopper Sparrow	*Ammodramus savannarum*	Regular	N	S
Baird's Sparrow	*Centronyx bairdii*	Accidental		D
Henslow's Sparrow	*Centronyx henslowii*	Regular	N	S
LeConte's Sparrow	*Ammospiza leconteii*	Regular		S
Nelson's Sparrow	*Ammospiza nelsoni*	Regular		S
Fox Sparrow	*Passerella iliaca*	Regular		S
Song Sparrow	*Melospiza melodia*	Regular	N	S
Lincoln's Sparrow	*Melospiza lincolnii*	Regular		S
Swamp Sparrow	*Melospiza georgiana*	Regular	N	S
White-throated Sparrow	*Zonotrichia albicollis*	Regular		S
Harris's Sparrow	*Zonotrichia querula*	Regular		S
White-crowned Sparrow	*Zonotrichia leucophrys*	Regular		S
Golden-crowned Sparrow	*Zonotrichia atricapilla*	Accidental		P
Dark-eyed Junco	*Junco hyemalis*	Regular		S
Chats, Icteriidae				
Yellow-breasted Chat	*Icteria virens*	Regular	N	S
Blackbirds, Orioles, Icteridae				
Yellow-headed Blackbird	*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*	Regular	N	S
Bobolink	*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*	Regular	N	S
Eastern Meadowlark	*Sturnella magna*	Regular	N	S
Western Meadowlark	*Sturnella neglecta*	Regular	N	S
Orchard Oriole	*Icterus spurius*	Regular	N	S
Hooded Oriole	*Icterus cucullatus*	Accidental		P
Bullock's Oriole	*Icterus bullockii*	Accidental		P
Baltimore Oriole	*Icterus galbula*	Regular	N	S
Scott's Oriole	*Icterus parisorum*	Accidental		P
Red-winged Blackbird	*Agelaius phoeniceus*	Regular	N	S
Brown-headed Cowbird	*Molothrus ater*	Regular	N	S
Rusty Blackbird	*Euphagus carolinus*	Regular		S
Brewer's Blackbird	*Euphagus cyanocephalus*	Regular		S
Common Grackle	*Quiscalus quiscula*	Regular	N	S
Great-tailed Grackle	*Quiscalus mexicanus*	Regular	N	S

Wood-warblers, Parulidae				
Ovenbird	*Seiurus aurocapilla*	Regular	N	S
Worm-eating Warbler	*Helmitheros vermivorum*	Regular	N	S
Louisiana Waterthrush	*Parkesia motacilla*	Regular	N	S
Northern Waterthrush	*Parkesia noveboracensis*	Regular		S
Golden-winged Warbler	*Vermivora chrysoptera*	Regular	N	S
Blue-winged Warbler	*Vermivora cyanoptera*	Regular	N	S
Black-and-white Warbler	*Mniotilta varia*	Regular	N	S
Prothonotary Warbler	*Protonotaria citrea*	Regular	N	S
Tennessee Warbler	*Oreothlypis peregrina*	Regular		S
Orange-crowned Warbler	*Oreothlypis celata*	Regular		S
Nashville Warbler	*Oreothlypis ruficapilla*	Regular		S
Connecticut Warbler	*Oporornis agilis*	Regular		S
MacGillivray's Warbler	*Geothlypis tolmiei*	Accidental		D
Mourning Warbler	*Geothlypis philadelphia*	Regular		S
Kentucky Warbler	*Geothlypis formosa*	Regular	N	S
Common Yellowthroat	*Geothlypis trichas*	Regular	N	S
Hooded Warbler	*Setophaga citrina*	Regular	N	S
American Redstart	*Setophaga ruticilla*	Regular	N	S
Cape May Warbler	*Setophaga tigrina*	Regular		S
Cerulean Warbler	*Setophaga cerulea*	Regular	N	S
Northern Parula	*Setophaga americana*	Regular	N	S
Magnolia Warbler	*Setophaga magnolia*	Regular		S
Bay-breasted Warbler	*Setophaga castanea*	Regular		S
Blackburnian Warbler	*Setophaga fusca*	Regular		S
Yellow Warbler	*Setophaga petechia*	Regular	N	S
Chestnut-sided Warbler	*Setophaga pensylvanica*	Regular	N	S
Blackpoll Warbler	*Setophaga striata*	Regular		S
Black-throated Blue Warbler	*Setophaga caerulescens*	Regular		S
Palm Warbler	*Setophaga palmarum*	Regular		S
Pine Warbler	*Setophaga pinus*	Regular	N	S
Yellow-rumped Warbler	*Setophaga coronata*	Regular		S
Yellow-throated Warbler	*Setophaga dominica*	Regular	N	P
Prairie Warbler	*Setophaga discolor*	Casual	N	P
Black-throated Gray Warbler	*Setophaga nigrescens*	Accidental		D
Townsend's Warbler	*Setophaga townsendi*	Accidental		D
Black-throated Green Warbler	*Setophaga virens*	Regular		S
Canada Warbler	*Cardellina canadensis*	Regular		S
Wilson's Warbler	*Cardellina pusilla*	Regular		S
Tanagers, Cardinals, Grosbeaks, Buntings, Cardinalidae				
Summer Tanager	*Piranga rubra*	Regular	N	S
Scarlet Tanager	*Piranga olivacea*	Regular	N	S
Western Tanager	*Piranga ludoviciana*	Casual		P
Northern Cardinal	*Cardinalis cardinalis*	Regular	N	S
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	*Pheucticus ludovicianus*	Regular	N	S
Black-headed Grosbeak	*Pheucticus melanocephalus*	Casual		P
Blue Grosbeak	*Passerina caerulea*	Regular	N	S
Lazuli Bunting	*Passerina amoena*	Regular		S
Indigo Bunting	*Passerina cyanea*	Regular	N	S
Painted Bunting	*Passerina cirus*	Casual		P
Dickcissel	*Spiza americana*	Regular	N	S

Iowa Ornithologists' Union Business Meeting

29 September 2018

The Iowa Ornithologists' Union (I.O.U.) fall business meeting was held at Ventura Community Center in Ventura, Iowa. President Francis Moore called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. Attending were Vice President Pip Fisher, Secretary Sharon Bauer, Treasurer Mary Beth Hunt, and Directors-at-large Diane Dentlinger, Curt Nelson, Eric Ollie, and Dennis Thompson, and members of the organization.

Secretary's Report: The minutes from the 19 May 2018 business meeting have been published on the I.O.U. website. Ted Francis moved to approve the minutes. Motion was seconded by Candace Havely. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Mary Beth Hunt gave a report of our financial status. Profit/loss and balance sheet reports current through the end of August 2018 shows we are up $11,704.74 but due to timing of expenses and income year-to-year comparisons are difficult to make. Spring 2018 meeting and publication expenses have not been paid yet. Dues are up from last year, and no money was given for projects this year. We should be ahead of the budget at the end of the year.

Membership Coordinator's Report: Cecille Thompson reported our current membership of 397 is down from 421 in 2017. Current numbers include fourteen Iowa Young Birders, who receive membership in the I.O.U. with their Iowa Young Birders membership. So it looks like we are down 24, but without the Iowa Young Birders, membership is down much more. We have 30 new members in 2018 and 76 non-renewals.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Publications Committee: *Iowa Bird Life* is back in publication with Karen Viste-Sparkman as the new editor and she is working diligently to get our publication back on schedule. She asks for articles and photos from the membership.

Records Committee: Paul Hertzel reported the committee has reviewed 20 records so far this year. All but 2 were approved. There are seven records pending documentation, including five in August alone. He stresses the importance of reporting your birds to the I.O.U. and becoming part of the historical record.

Membership Committee: Doug Harr reported that I.O.U. merchandise website has been updated with a partnership with Corporate Casuals. You can now order your choice of clothing and other items embroidered with the I.O.U. logo.

Projects Committee: John Cecil reports his term is up on the Projects Committee. Many projects were funded before the spring meeting. There are no new projects to report for fall.

Library/Historical Committee Report: Candace Havely reported the birding records of Pete Wickham have

been received and will be delivered to ISU. ISU will decide if these records will be incorporated into the I.O.U. records, or will be a separate archive.

Ann Johnson reported that the ISU Library is digitizing several records from the I.O.U. Some of these records include letters from members to the Field Report Editors for quarterly reports between 1962 and 2005. These letters contain bird sightings, but some also include personal information. The ISU Library will be contacting members to provide an opt-out opportunity for individuals who would prefer their letters not be available online.

Events Committee: Dennis Thompson reported they are planning a possible I.O.U. field trip to Red Rock Reservoir in November. If anyone has suggestions for field trips, contact any committee member.

Communications Committee: John Bissell has agreed to join the Communications Committee. Along with the Listserv, other platforms for Communications include Twitter, Facebook, and *The Bobolink*.

OTHER BUSINESS

Vice President Pip Fisher reported on the successful spring I.O.U. meeting at Briar Cliff College in Sioux City. 105 registered participants and 185 species of birds were reported for the weekend. Expenses are still being tabulated, but are in line with projected amounts. Specifics will be presented at the Budget Meeting.

The spring I.O.U. meeting will be held at Lacey-Keosauqua State Park 3–5 May 2019. Iowa City Bird Club and Karen Disbrow will be hosts. Nathan Pieplow will be the keynote speaker.

We need a location for the fall 2019 meeting. If you have any ideas, please contact any board member.

President Francis Moore reported the audit has not yet been completed. Kevin Murphy has agreed to perform the audit. If you would like to assist with the audit, please let Francis or Kevin know.

Pip Fisher reported that Steve Dinsmore would be contacted for deadline and completion of the Breeding Bird Atlas.

Paul Roisen suggested that the committees go back to a written report for the board and business meetings.

Many committees will be looking for new members in May 2019. Contact President Francis Moore if you have any questions or if you would like to serve on any committee.

Bob and John Cecil have been coordinating the silent auction for many years at the I.O.U. meetings and will be taking a break. The silent auction has been a popular addition to our meetings and if you would be interested in organizing this fun event, please contact President Francis Moore.

Motion was made by Cecille Thompson to adjourn the meeting. Second by Stuart Sparkman. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 4:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Bauer, Secretary

Iowa Ornithologists' Union Board of Directors' Meeting

29 September 2018

The Iowa Ornithologists' Union (I.O.U.) fall board meeting was held at Ventura Community Center in Ventura, Iowa. President Francis Moore called the meeting to order at 12:35 p.m. Attending were Vice President Pip Fisher; Secretary Sharon Bauer; Treasurer Mary Beth Hunt; and Directors-at-large Diane Dentlinger, Curt Nelson, Eric Ollie, and Dennis Thompson. Attending as guests were Cecille Thompson, Paul Hertzel, Hank Zaletel, and Ann Johnson. Board member Kevin Murphy was absent.

President's Report: On line board action since last meeting: Proposal that Mike and Ramona Jacobson of Ottosen be recognized for their efforts to protect the Burrowing Owl that many Iowans observed in spring 2018. Proposal that they be a granted a one-year membership to the I.O.U. with the fee coming from the general fund. Online voting passed.

Secretary's Report: The minutes from the 19 May 2018 Board of Directors meeting have been published on the I.O.U. website. Eric Ollie moved to approve the minutes. Second by Pip Fisher. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Mary Beth Hunt gave a report of our financial status. Profit/loss and balance sheet reports current through the end of August 2018 shows we are up $11,704.74 but due to timing of expenses and income year-to-year comparisons are difficult to make. Spring 2018 meeting and publication expenses have not been paid yet. Dues are up from last year, and nothing was given to projects this year. We should be ahead of the budget at the end of the year.

Membership Coordinator's Report: Cecille Thompson reported our current membership of 397, down 24 from 2017. We have 30 new members and 76 non-renewals.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Projects Committee: There are no current projects.

Publications Committee: Ann Johnson reported they are currently one member down and suggested restructuring the committee. No change was made. *Iowa Bird Life* is in publication with Karen Viste-Sparkman as the new editor.

Records Committee: Paul Hertzel reported they reviewed 20 records from winter, spring, and summer. All but 2 were approved. There are seven pending documentations.

Library/Historical Committee Report: Hank Zaletel reported the birding records of Pete Wickham have been received and will be delivered to Iowa State University.

Events Committee: Dennis Thompson and Eric Ollie are plan-

ning an I.O.U. trip to Red Rock Reservoir in November.

Communications Committee: Linda Rudolph has resigned from managing *The Bobolink*. Paul Skrade will be filling the vacancy.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Discussion on the progression of the Breeding Bird Atlas. Pip Fisher made a motion to set a deadline of 31 December 2018 for a response from Steve Dinsmore proposing a date for completion of the BBA, to be approved by the board. If there is no response from Steve by 31 December, I.O.U. funding for the project will be withdrawn. Motion was seconded by Eric Ollie. Motion carried. President Francis Moore will inform Steve Dinsmore by letter of the deadline.

NEW BUSINESS

ISU Library is digitizing several records from the I.O.U. Some of these records include letters from members to the Field Report Editors for quarterly reports between 1962 and 2005. These letters contain bird sightings, but some also include personal information. The ISU Library is requesting a membership mailing list to contact our members to provide an opt-out opportunity for individuals who would prefer their letters not be available online. Pip Fisher made a motion to provide the ISU Library with an I.O.U. membership mailing list. Mary Beth Hunt seconded the motion. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

Vice President Pip Fisher reported on the successful spring IOU meeting at Briar Cliff College. Numbers are still being tabulated, but expenses are in line with projected amounts. Specifics will be presented at the Budget Meeting.

The spring I.O.U. meeting will be held at Lacey-Keosauqua State Park 3–5 May 2019. Nathan Pieplow will be the keynote speaker. His fee will be $500 plus expenses.

Budget meeting date has not been set, but will probably be in January 2019. President Francis Moore and Treasurer Mary Beth Hunt will set the date.

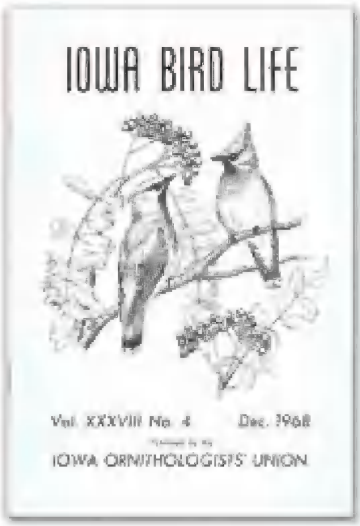
Motion was made by Mary Beth Hunt to adjourn the meeting, second by Eric Ollie. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 1:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Bauer, Secretary

Fifty Years Ago in *Iowa Bird Life*

James J. Dinsmore



The lead article in the December 1968 issue of *Iowa Bird Life* is another in a continuing series on the birds of the Davenport area by Thomas J. Morrissey. In this issue he covers the owls and includes short write-ups on eight species, again with line drawings by E. W. Steffen illustrating all of those species. Morrissey apparently had less experience with the owls than he did with the waterfowl and hawks that he discussed in previous articles. He considered the Barn Owl, Great Horned Owl, Snowy Owl, Short-eared Owl, and Northern Saw-whet Owl as either rare or very rare and apparently omitted the Long-eared Owl from his original notes. Editor Peter Petersen updated the status of the various species but even so it is obvious that owls were relatively poorly studied at that time. The article, as did previous articles, provides an interesting base for comparing status and other information on a number of species between the 1940s and current times.

Two articles discuss birds in nearby states. Richard Crawford, who served as vice president of the IOU before moving to North Dakota, presents some results of a study of the food habits of Great Horned Owls in northeastern Missouri. In the other article, Arthur Carpenter describes his experiences photographing Sharp-tailed Grouse on their display grounds in Michigan.

The field reports section covers the 1968 fall migration. No special rarities were reported but apparently there was a strong movement of Red-breasted Nuthatches through Iowa, starting in August and continuing with numerous reports throughout the fall. Notes on banding by Pete Petersen provide some interesting counts and dates for several species of flycatchers, thrushes, vireos, and warblers.

The general notes include one on banding birds in southwestern Iowa by Mrs. W.C. DeLong and another on two Wilson's Phalarope nests found in Clay and Palo Alto counties. In the latter note Iowa State University students Robert Bergman, Loren Bates, and David Voigts describe what apparently were the first phalarope nests found in Iowa since the late 1800s.

One of the books reviewed is *Waterfowl, their Biology and Natural History* by Paul Johnsgard, a prolific writer who has published many books on birds. Most of his recent books cover topics related to Nebraska where he has resided for years.

646 Mallory Hill Drive, The Villages, FL 32162 (oldcoot@iastate.edu)

Index—2018

Compiled by James J. Dinsmore

A

Amana, 47, 50–57, 58
Ames, 45, 46, 47, 50–57, 58
Andalusia, Illinois, 45, 50–57, 58
Anhinga, 177
Ani, Groove-billed, 174
Anon., IOU financial statement, 43–44
Avocet, American, 14–15, 107, 117, 148, 172, 175

B

Bauer, Sharon
  Iowa Ornithologists' Union Board of Directors meeting, 186–187
  Iowa Ornithologists' Union business meeting, 184–185
Bean-Goose, Taiga, 173
Bittern
  American, 20, 119, 151, 177
  Least, 20, 119, 151, 169, 177
Blackbird
  Brewer's, 8, 35, 47, 58, 78, 128, 182
  Red-winged, 47, 57, 78, 182
  Rusty, 35, 47, 57, 78, 128, 182
  Yellow-headed, 35, 48, 127, 156, 182
Bluebird
  Eastern, 30, 47, 56, 75, 124, 133, 181
  Mountain, 62, 75, 102, 124, 181
Board of Directors meeting, *See* Iowa Ornithologists' Union
Bobolink, 35, 127–128, 156, 182
Bobwhite, Northern, 12, 46, 53, 61, 69, 105, 143, 144, 146, 174
Booby, Brown, 165, 172, 177
Boone County, 47, 50–57, 58
Brambling, 181
Brant, 172, 173
Bremer County, 48, 50–57, 58
Buchanan County, 50–57
Bufflehead, 11–12, 52, 64, 69, 105, 173
Bunting
  Indigo, 38, 112, 131, 183
  Lark, 137, 182
  Lazuli, 131, 172, 183
  Painted, 102, 131, 183
  Snow, 33, 47, 56, 61, 76, 126, 182
Burlington, 45, 48, 50–57, 58

C

Canton, 50–57
Canvasback, 10, 45, 52, 64, 104, 146, 173
Caracara, Crested, 179
Cardinal, Northern, 48, 57, 183
Carroll County, 49, 50–57, 58
Cass County, 45, 50–57
Caster, Chris, Iowa Christmas Bird Count, 2017–2018, 45–58
Catbird, Gray, 31, 47, 58, 75, 124–125, 181
Cedar Falls-Waterloo, 45, 50–57
Cedar Rapids, 47, 50–57, 58
Cerro Gordo County, 3–4
Chat, Yellow-breasted, 35, 127, 156, 167, 170, 182
Checklist of Iowa birds, 165–183
Cherokee, 50–57
Chickadee
  Black-capped, 47, 55, 118, 180
  Boreal, 180
Christmas Bird Count, 45–58
Chuck-will's-widow, 147, 166, 174
Clear Lake, 3–4
Clinton, 45, 49, 50–57, 58
Collared-Dove, Eurasian, 13, 46, 54, 69, 106, 147, 174
Coot, American, 14, 46, 54, 69–70, 107, 148, 175
Cormorant
  Double-crested, 19, 46, 53, 71, 112, 119, 144, 151, 177
  Neotropic, 19, 119, 136, 172, 177
Cowbird, Brown-headed, 48, 57, 78, 128, 182
Crane
  Sandhill, 14, 46, 54, 70, 107, 144, 148, 166, 167, 175
  Whooping, 14, 175
Creeper, Brown, 29–30, 47, 56, 74, 123, 180
Crossbill
  Red, 8, 31–32, 49, 57, 76, 125, 145, 155, 181
  White-winged, 8, 32, 48, 76, 125, 181

Crow
American, 47, 55, 180
Fish, 102, 123, 137, 172, 180
Cuckoo
Black-billed, 13–14, 106, 147, 174
Yellow-billed, 13, 101, 106, 147, 170, 174
Curlew
Eskimo, 175
Long-billed, 175

D

Dallas County, 48, 50–57
Davenport, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50–57, 58
Decorah, 50–57
Des Moines, 50–57
DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge, 49, 50–57, 58
Dickcissel, 38, 48, 58, 78, 131, 158, 183
Dinsmore, James J.
Field Reports—summer 2018, 142–160
Fifty years ago in *Iowa Bird Life*, 40, 88, 140, 188
Index, 189–196
Dinsmore, Stephen J., First record of a Bar-tailed Godwit for Iowa, 1–2
Dove (*See also* Collared-Dove)
Inca, 165, 172, 174
Mourning, 46, 54, 69, 174
White-winged, 13, 106, 145, 147, 174
Dowitcher
Long-billed, 17, 109, 176
Short-billed, 17, 109, 149, 176
Dubuque, 50–57
Duck (*See also* Whistling-Duck)
American Black, 10, 45, 52, 64, 104, 145, 145–146, 173
Harlequin, 135, 172, 173
Long-tailed, 11, 46, 58, 61, 64, 105, 173
Mottled, 138, 172, 173
Ring-necked, 11, 52, 64, 104, 146, 173
Ruddy, 7, 12, 53, 69, 105, 118, 143, 146, 174
Wood, 10, 52, 63, 65, 103, 173
Dunlin, 16, 108, 175

E

Eagle
Bald, 5, 8, 25, 41–42, 46, 53, 61, 67, 71–72, 121, 144, 152, 178
Golden, 26, 41–42, 46, 58, 71, 120, 178
Egret
Cattle, 20, 120, 151–152, 177
Great, 20, 48, 58, 71, 119, 151, 177
Reddish, 177
Snowy, 20, 119, 151, 177
Eider
Common, 173
King, 173
Eldora-Union, 48, 50–57

F

Falcon
Peregrine, 8, 27, 41–42, 47, 55, 61, 74, 117, 122, 144, 153, 179
Prairie, 27, 41–42, 49, 58, 61, 74, 122, 179
Fall meeting, *See* Iowa Ornithologists' Union
Field reports
fall, 6–40
spring, 100–133
summer, 142–160
winter, 59–79
Fifty years ago in *Iowa Bird Life*, 40, 88, 140, 188
Finch
House, 48, 57, 75–76, 171, 181
Purple, 31, 48, 57, 76, 125, 171, 181
First state record, 1–2
Fischer, Carolyn, *See* Lucas, Betty V., and _____
Fisher, Pip, Fall 2018 meeting summary, 161–164
Flicker, Northern, 23, 26, 47, 55, 73, 121, 179
Flycatcher
Acadian, 28, 101, 122, 143, 154, 179
Alder, 28, 122, 144, 154, 179
Fork-tailed, 179
Great crested, 28, 122, 168, 179
Least, 28, 122, 144, 154, 179
Olive-sided, 27, 122, 144, 153, 179
Scissor-tailed, 28, 122, 179
Vermilion, 179
Western, 179
Willow, 28, 101, 122, 154, 179
Yellow-bellied, 8, 23, 27–28, 122, 144, 153–154, 179
Frigatebird, Magnificent, 177

G

Gadwall, 10, 45, 52, 63–64, 103, 134, 145, 166, 173

Gadwall x Mallard, 103
Gallinule
Common, 7–8, 14, 107, 148, 171, 175
Purple, 166, 175
Garganey, 134, 166, 173
Gnatcatcher, Blue-gray, 30, 118, 124, 155, 181
Godwit
Bar-tailed, 1–2, 7, 8, 15, 136, 165, 172, 175
Hudsonian, 107–108, 148, 175
Marbled, 7, 15, 16, 108, 148, 175
Goldeneye
Barrow's, 62, 69, 172, 173
Common, 12, 45, 53, 69, 105, 173
Golden-Plover, American, 15, 107, 148, 175
Goldfinch
American, 48, 57, 76, 181
Lesser, 181
Goose
Cackling, 7, 9, 45, 52, 63, 68, 103, 173
Canada, 45, 52, 63, 103, 173
Greater White-fronted, 9, 45, 52, 63, 103, 145, 173
Ross's, 9, 45, 52, 62, 102–103, 134, 166, 173
Snow, 7, 9, 45, 52, 62, 95, 101, 102, 134, 145, 166, 173
Goshawk, Northern, 25, 41–42, 48, 71, 120, 178
Grackle
Common, 47–48, 57, 78, 182
Great-tailed, 35, 49, 58, 78, 128, 156–157, 172, 182
Grebe
Clark's, 172, 174
Eared, 13, 101, 106, 145, 147, 174
Horned, 13, 69, 106, 118, 172, 174
Pied-billed, 13, 53, 69, 106, 147, 174
Red-necked, 7, 13, 101, 106, 143, 147, 174
Western, 7, 13, 101, 106, 143, 147, 174
Green Island, 45, 47, 49, 50–57, 58
Grinnell, 50–57
Grosbeak
Black-headed, 183
Blue, 38, 111, 131, 144, 158, 183
Evening, 62, 75, 102, 125, 181
Pine, 181
Rose-breasted, 38, 131, 183
Ground-Dove, Common, 174
Grouse
Ruffed, 13, 48, 106, 135, 145, 147, 174
Sharp-tailed, 174
Gull
Black-headed, 135, 172, 173
Black-headed x Ring-billed, 145, 149
Black-tailed, 176
Bonaparte's, 18, 109–110, 176
California, 8, 18, 136, 145, 150, 176
Franklin's, 18, 48, 58, 70, 110, 150, 176
Glaucous, 18, 46, 58, 70, 110, 176
Glaucous-winged, 165, 172, 176
Great Black-backed, 8, 18, 48, 58, 62, 70, 81, 136, 176
Herring, 18, 46, 54, 70, 110, 150, 176
Iceland, 46, 54, 110, 165, 172, 176
Ivory, 176
Laughing, 110, 145, 150, 176
Lesser Black-backed, 18, 46, 54, 70, 110, 142, 145, 150, 176
Little, 7, 8, 18, 136, 176
Mew, 172, 176
Ring-billed, 22, 46, 54, 70, 110, 144, 150, 176
Ross's, 176
Sabine's, 18, 176
Slaty-backed, 176
Thayer's, 165, 172
Gyrfalcon, 5, 8, 9, 27, 41–42, 61, 62, 74, 137, 179

H

Harms, Tyler M., Field reports—spring 2018, 100–133
Harrier, Northern, 25, 41–42, 46, 53, 120, 134, 152, 166, 178
Hawk
Broad-winged, 8, 25, 41–42, 121, 153, 178
Cooper's, 8, 25, 41–42, 46, 53, 61, 71, 120, 152, 178
Ferruginous, 8, 9, 26, 41–42, 135, 178
Red-shouldered, 25, 41–42, 46, 53, 121, 144, 153, 178
Red-tailed, 25, 41–42, 53, 72, 178
Rough-legged, 5, 25–26, 41–42, 46, 53, 65, 72, 121, 178
Sharp-shinned, 25, 41–42, 46, 53, 61, 71, 120, 178
Swainson's, 8, 25, 41–42, 121, 153, 178
Hawk banding, 42

Heron (*See also* Night-Heron)
Great Blue, 46, 53, 71, 119, 151, 177
Green, 20, 120, 152, 177
Little Blue, 20, 102, 119–120, 135, 145, 151, 172, 177
Tricolored, 172, 177
Hertzel, Paul
Field reports—fall 2017, 6–40
Report of the Records Committee for 2017, 134–139
Hitchcock Nature Center, 41–42
Howard County, 5
Humboldt County, 50–57, 89–94
Hummingbird
Anna's, 174
Broad-billed, 165, 172, 174
Ruby-throated, 14, 22, 106, 147, 170, 174
Rufous, 102, 106, 172, 174

I

Ibis
Glossy, 102, 120, 137, 138, 172, 177
White, 177
White-faced, 20, 120, 152, 177
Ida County, 49, 50–57, 58
Iowa bird checklist, 165–183
Iowa City, 48, 50–57, 58
Iowa Ornithologists' Union
Board of Directors meeting, 84–87, 186–187
Budget meeting, 80–81
Checklist of Iowa birds, 165–183
Fall business meeting, 184–185
Fall meeting summary, 161–164
Publications Committee update, 141
Records Committee, annual report of, 134–139
Spring business meeting, 82–84
Treasurer's report, 43–44

J

Jaeger
Long-tailed, 176
Parasitic, 142, 144, 149, 176
Pomarine, 176
Jamaica, 49, 50–57, 58
Jay
Blue, 29, 47, 55, 180
Canada, 166, 180
Gray, 166
Pinyon, 180
Jefferson County, 95–99
Johnson, Ann
Official checklist of Iowa birds 2018 edition, 165–183
Update from the Publications Committee, 141
Johnston, Julie, My Great Horned Owl spring, 95–99
Junco
Dark-eyed, 35, 47, 56, 77, 127, 182
Oregon, 66, 77

K

Keokuk, 45, 46, 48, 49, 50–57, 58
Kestrel, American, 8, 26, 27, 41–42, 47, 55, 67, 73, 179
Killdeer, 15, 21, 46, 54, 70, 107, 148, 175
Kingbird
Eastern, 28, 122, 179
Western, 28, 122, 153, 170, 179
Kingfisher, Belted, 46, 55, 73, 178
Kinglet,
Golden-crowned, 30, 47, 56, 75, 124, 181
Ruby-crowned, 30, 47, 58, 75, 101, 124, 181
Kite
Mississippi, 25, 41–42, 121, 144, 152–153, 178
Swallow-tailed, 8, 20, 25, 42, 137, 172, 178
White-tailed, 137, 165, 172, 178
Kittiwake, Black-legged, 18, 172, 176
Knot, Red, 172, 175

L

Lamoni, 45, 47, 50–57, 58
Lark, Horned, 47, 55, 61, 68, 74, 123, 180
Longspur
Chestnut-collared, 182
Lapland, 32, 47, 56, 61, 76, 125, 182
Smith's, 32–33, 125–126, 182
Loon
Common, 3, 19, 49, 58, 70–71, 112, 119, 151, 177
Pacific, 19, 177
Red-throated, 11, 70, 119, 177
Yellow-billed, 3–4, 8, 19, 136, 177
Lost Nation, 47, 48, 50–57, 58
Lucas, Betty V., and Carolyn J. Fischer, Yellow-billed Loon at Clear Lake, 3–4

M

Magpie, Black-billed, 8, 29, 48, 138, 180
Mallard, 45, 52, 64, 101, 104, 173

Mallard x American Black Duck, 58
Marion County, 1–2
Martin, Purple, 29, 123, 154, 180
Mason City, 50–57
Meadowlark
  Eastern, 35, 58, 77–78, 128, 143, 156, 182
  species, 47, 57
  Western, 35, 57, 78, 128, 156, 182
Merganser
  Common, 12, 45, 53, 69, 105, 145, 146, 173
  Hooded, 12, 45, 53, 66, 69, 105, 117, 146, 173
  Red-breasted, 12, 45, 53, 69, 105, 173
Merlin, 27, 41–42, 47, 55, 61, 73–74, 121–122, 145, 153, 179
Mockingbird, Northern, 31, 47, 58, 75, 125, 144, 155, 181
Moore, Francis L., Field reports—winter 2017–2018, 59–79
Moorhen, Common, *See* Gallinule, Common
Murre, Thick-billed, 176
Murrelet
  Ancient, 176
  Long-billed, 176
Muscatine, 48, 49, 50–57, 58

N

Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge, 45, 47, 48, 49, 50–57, 58
Newton, Jacob, Territorial behavior of a Burrowing Owl in northwestern Humboldt County, Iowa in May 2018, 89–94
Nighthawk, Common, 14, 174
Night-Heron
  Black-crowned, 20, 71, 120, 152, 177
  Yellow-crowned, 20, 120, 152, 177
Northeast Madison County, 50–57
North Linn, 50–57
Northwest Clayton County, 45, 50–57, 58
Nutcracker, Clark's, 180
Nuthatch
  Pygmy, 180
  Red-breasted, 8, 29, 47, 49, 55, 67, 74, 123, 145, 155, 180
  White-breasted, 47, 55, 180

O

Oldsquaw, *See* Duck, Long-tailed
Omaha, 45, 47, 49, 50–57, 58
Oriole
  Baltimore, 35, 111, 128, 182
  Bullock's, 182
  Hooded, 182
  Orchard, 35, 111, 128, 156, 182
  Scott's, 182
Osprey, 20, 41–42, 117, 120, 144, 152, 178
Ovenbird, 35, 128, 157, 183
Owl, *See also* Screech-Owl
  Barn, 26, 102, 121, 143, 153, 178
  Barred, 47, 54, 68, 72, 121, 153, 178
  Boreal, 172, 178
  Burrowing, 89–94, 121, 178
  Great Gray, 178
  Great Horned, 47, 54, 95–99, 121, 178
  Long-eared, 26, 47, 54, 61, 72–73, 121, 178
  Northern Hawk, 178
  Northern Saw-whet, 8, 26, 42, 47, 55, 61, 73, 121, 178
  Short-eared, 26, 47, 54, 61, 73, 121, 178
  Snowy, 8, 26, 48, 54, 61, 66, 111, 121, 178
Owl banding, 42

P

Parakeet, Carolina, 179
Partridge, Gray, 12–13, 46, 58, 61, 69, 105, 146–147, 174
Parula, Northern, 37, 130, 158, 171, 183
Pelican
  American White, 19, 46, 53, 61, 71, 119, 144, 151, 177
  Brown, 136, 172, 177
Pewee, *See* Wood-Pewee
Phalarope
  Red, 176
  Red-necked, 18, 109, 176
  Wilson's, 17–18, 109, 149, 176
Pheasant, Ring-necked, 13, 46, 53, 69, 105, 147, 174
Phoebe
  Eastern, 28, 48, 55, 74, 122, 17
  Say's, 172, 179

Pigeon
Passenger, 174
Rock, 46, 54, 174
Pintail, Northern, 10, 45, 52, 64, 104, 146, 173
Pipit
American, 31, 125, 181
Sprague's, 181
Plegadis species, 20, 152
Plover, *See also* Golden-Plover
Black-bellied, 15, 107, 148, 175
Piping, 7, 15, 107, 144, 175
Semipalmated, 15, 107, 148, 175
Snowy, 171, 175
Pottawattamie County, 41–42
Prairie-Chicken, Greater, 13, 106, 147, 172, 174
Princeton, 50–57
Publications Committee, *See* Iowa Ornithologists' Union

R

Rail
Black, 175
King, 8, 14, 106, 136, 175
Virginia, 14, 48, 58, 68, 69, 107, 143, 147–148, 175
Yellow, 8, 14, 106, 175
Rathbun Reservoir, 45, 50–57
Raven, Common, 8, 29, 137, 180
Records Committee, *See* Iowa Ornithologists' Union
Redhead, 7, 10–11, 52, 64, 104, 143, 146, 173
Redpoll
Common, 24, 31, 48, 57, 61, 76, 102, 125, 181
Hoary, 61, 62, 76, 102, 125, 181
Red Rock Reservoir, 1–2, 48, 49, 50–57, 58
Redstart, American, 36, 116, 130, 157–158, 183
Robin, American, 31, 47, 56, 75, 181
Rosy-Finch, Gray-crowned, 181
Ruff, 8, 16, 136, 166, 175
Rundquist, Rex W.
Iowa Ornithologists' Union budget meeting, 80–81
Iowa Ornithologists' Union spring 2018 board meeting, 84–87
Iowa Ornithologists' Union spring 2018 business meeting, 82–84

S

Sac County, 50–57
Sanderling, 16, 108, 148, 175
Sandpiper
Baird's, 16, 108, 148, 175
Buff-breasted, 16, 21, 108, 149, 166, 175
Curlew, 175
Least, 7, 16, 108, 112, 144, 148–149, 175
Pectoral, 1, 7, 16–17, 108, 144, 149, 175
Semipalmated, 17, 108, 149, 175
Sharp-tailed, 175
Solitary, 17, 109, 149, 176
Spotted, 17, 109, 118, 149, 176
Stilt, 16, 108, 148, 175
Upland, 15, 107, 148, 169, 175
Western, 17, 108–109, 175
White-rumped, 16, 108, 149, 175
Sapsucker
Red-breasted, 178
Yellow-bellied, 26, 47, 55, 73, 121, 153, 178
Saylorville Reservoir, 45, 46, 48, 49, 50–57, 58
Scaup
Greater, 7, 11, 52, 64, 104, 173
Lesser, 11, 52, 64, 104–105, 146, 173
Scoter
Black, 7, 11, 58, 64, 105, 173
Surf, 11, 58, 105, 173
White-winged, 7, 11, 58, 64, 105, 173
Screech-Owl, Eastern, 47, 54, 66, 72, 121, 178
Shackleton, Ryan, Gyrfalcon in Howard County, 5
Shenandoah, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50–57
Shoveler, Northern, 10, 52, 63, 103, 134, 145, 166, 173
Shrike
Loggerhead, 28, 47, 58, 74, 122, 154, 179
Northern, 28, 47, 55, 61, 74, 122, 134, 171, 179
species, 55
Sioux City, 50–57
Siskin, Pine, 32, 48, 57, 61, 76, 125, 145, 155, 181
Snipe, Wilson's, 17, 46, 54, 70, 109, 111, 149, 176
Solitaire, Townsend's, 30, 49, 58, 75, 124, 181
Sora, 14, 22, 107, 144, 148, 175
Southeast Clayton County, 48, 49, 50–57, 58
Southeast Webster County, 45, 50–57
Sparrow
American Tree, 8, 33, 56, 66, 77, 126, 171, 182
Baird's, 171, 182
Black-throated, 182
Chipping, 33, 76, 126, 182
Clay-colored, 33, 126, 156, 182
Eurasian Tree, 31, 48, 57, 61, 75, 125, 155, 172, 181
Field, 33, 47, 58, 76, 126, 182

Fox, 24, 34, 47, 56, 76–77, 127, 182
Golden-crowned, 182
Grasshopper, 34, 126, 156, 167, 182
Harris's, 34–35, 47, 56, 77, 127, 182
Henslow's, 34, 126–127, 143, 156, 169, 171, 182
House, 48, 57, 181
Lark, 33, 126, 156, 182
LeConte's, 24, 34, 49, 58, 127, 134, 166, 171, 182
Lincoln's, 8, 34, 47, 57, 77, 127, 182
Nelson's, 34, 127, 171, 182
Savannah, 24, 33–34, 47, 57, 76, 126, 156, 182
Song, 24, 34, 47, 57, 77 127, 182
Swamp, 34, 47, 57, 77, 127, 156, 182
Vesper, 33, 49, 58, 126, 168, 182
White-crowned, 8, 35, 47, 56, 65, 77, 127, 182
White-throated, 24, 34, 47, 57, 77, 127, 182
Spirit Lake, 45, 50–57, 58
Spoonbill, Roseate, 177
Spring meeting, *See* Iowa Ornithologists' Union
Starling, European, 47, 56, 181
Stilt, Black-necked, 7, 14, 107, 145, 148, 172, 175
Stork, Wood, 136, 138, 177
Swallow
Bank, 29, 123, 154, 180
Barn, 29, 123, 180
Cave, 180
Cliff, 29, 123, 180
Northern Rough-winged, 29, 123, 154, 180
Tree, 29, 123, 180
Violet-green, 180
Swan
Mute, 9, 45, 58, 63, 103, 145, 173
Trumpeter, 9, 45, 52, 63, 103, 173
Tundra, 9–10, 45, 52, 63, 103, 173
Swift, Chimney, 14, 106, 174

T

Tanager
Scarlet, 38, 131, 158, 160, 170, 183
Summer, 38, 131, 158, 183
Western, 137, 183
Taylor County, 50–57, 58
Teal
Blue-winged, 10, 48, 58, 63, 101, 103, 134, 166, 173
Cinnamon, 48, 48, 62, 63, 103, 134, 166, 173
Green–winged, 10, 52, 64, 104, 146, 173
Tern
Arctic, 138, 176
Black, 7, 19, 110, 144, 150, 176
Caspian, 19, 110, 150, 176
Common, 19, 110, 119, 150–151, 176
Forster's, 19, 119, 151, 176
Least, 19, 110, 144, 150, 176
Royal, 176
Thornton, Bethany, 2017 Hitchcock Nature Center hawk watch report, 41–42
Thrasher
Brown, 47, 58, 75, 125, 181
Curve–billed, 181
Sage, 181
Thrush
Gray-cheeked, 31, 124, 181
Hermit, 31, 47, 56, 75, 112, 124, 181
Swainson's, 31, 124, 181
Varied, 181
Wood, 31, 124, 143, 155, 181
Titmouse, Tufted, 29, 55, 74, 154–155, 180
Toll, Jerry, 2017 Hitchcock Nature Center fall banding summary, 42
Towhee
Eastern, 33, 47, 58, 126, 156, 182
Green-tailed, 182
Spotted, 33, 47, 58, 126, 144, 155–156, 172, 182
Treasurer's Report, *See* Iowa Ornithologists' Union
Turkey, Wild, 46, 53, 69, 106, 118, 174
Turnstone, Ruddy, 14, 22, 175

U

Union County, 45, 50–57, 58
Union Slough National Wildlife Refuge, 50–57

V

Veery, 30, 124, 133, 155, 181
Violetear
Green, 166
Mexican, 166, 174
Vireo
Bell's, 28, 101, 123, 154, 168, 169, 180
Blue-headed, 28, 123, 180
Philadelphia, 123, 180
Red-eyed, 28, 123, 180
Warbling, 28, 123, 180
White-eyed, 28, 112, 122, 154, 180
Yellow-throated, 23, 28, 118, 128, 154, 180

Vulture
Black, 9, 20, 41–42, 137, 178
Turkey, 20, 41–42, 48, 61, 71, 120, 178

W
Warbler
Bay-breasted, 37, 130, 171, 183
Black-and-white, 36, 113, 114, 115, 129, 144, 157, 183
Blackburnian, 37, 115, 116, 130, 171, 183
Blackpoll, 37, 115, 130, 171, 183
Black-throated Blue, 37, 130, 144, 158, 171, 183
Black-throated Gray, 171, 183
Black-throated Green, 37–38, 101, 131, 171, 183
Blue-winged, 36, 129, 157, 183
Canada, 38, 131, 171, 183
Cape May, 37, 115, 130, 171, 183
Cerulean, 37, 116, 130, 158, 171, 183
Chestnut-sided, 37, 130, 144, 158, 171, 183
Connecticut, 129, 183
Golden-winged, 35–36, 129, 183
Hooded, 36, 129–130, 157, 171, 183
Kentucky, 36, 129, 143, 157, 171, 183
MacGillivray's, 171, 183
Magnolia, 37, 130, 171, 183
Mourning, 36, 129, 144, 157, 171, 183
Nashville, 36, 113, 129, 183
Orange-crowned, 23, 36, 49, 58, 129, 183
Palm, 37, 48–49, 58, 78, 114, 116, 130, 171, 183
Pine, 37, 130–131, 158, 171, 183
Prairie, 102, 131, 137, 138, 145, 158, 171, 183
Prothonotary, 36, 114, 129, 157, 168, 183
Tennessee, 36, 129, 157, 183
Townsend's, 171, 183
Wilson's, 38, 113, 131, 171, 183
Worm-eating, 128, 157, 171, 172, 183
Yellow, 37, 115, 116, 130, 171, 183
Yellow-rumped, 37, 47, 56, 78, 87, 113, 131, 171, 183
Yellow-throated, 37, 113, 131, 158, 169, 171, 183
Waterloo, *See also* Cedar Falls,
Waterthrush
Louisiana, 35, 114, 128, 144, 157, 183
Northern, 35, 101, 114, 128–129, 183
Waxwing
Bohemian, 31, 75, 181
Cedar, 31, 47, 56, 75, 125, 155, 181
Westfield, 48, 50–57
West Mercer County, Illinois, 48, 50–57, 58
Whimbrel, 7, 15, 107, 175
Whip-poor-will, Eastern, 14, 106, 147, 166, 174
Whistling-Duck
Black-bellied, 136, 144–145, 173
Fulvous, 173
Wigeon
American, 10, 52, 64, 103–104, 134, 166, 173
Eurasian, 134, 136, 166, 173
Willet, 17, 109, 149, 176
Woodcock, American, 17, 70, 111, 149, 176
Woodpecker
Acorn, 178
Black-backed, 179
Downy, 47, 49, 55, 166, 179
Hairy, 47, 55, 73, 166, 179
Lewis's, 178
Pileated, 26, 47, 55, 73, 121, 144, 153, 179
Red-bellied, 47, 55, 73, 153, 178
Red-headed, 26, 47, 55, 73, 98, 143, 178
Wood-Pewee
Eastern, 27, 101, 122, 179
Western, 179
Worth County, 45
Wren
Bewick's, 124, 180
Carolina, 30, 47, 56, 74–75, 124, 144, 155, 180
House, 30, 123, 180
Marsh, 30, 49, 58, 67, 74, 124, 155, 168, 180
Pacific, 180
Rock, 180
Sedge, 30, 124, 155, 180
Winter, 8, 30, 47, 56, 123–124, 180

Y
Yellowlegs
Greater, 7, 17, 109, 149, 176
Lesser, 1, 7, 17, 109, 144, 149, 176
Yellow River Forest, 50–57, 58
Yellowthroat, Common, 36, 114, 129, 183

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES (renewable yearly): Fledgling (students) $20 (electronic only), Institutional (domestic) $30, Institutional (foreign) $45, Goldfinch $25 (electronic only), Bluebird $35, Oriole $50, Egret $75, Osprey $100, Bald Eagle $250, and Peregrine Falcon $500+. Membership dues entitle members to receive *Iowa Bird Life* quarterly and to vote and hold office in the Union. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Join, give a gift, or manage your membership on-line at <www.iowabirds.org>. Paper forms for new members and renewals may be mailed to the treasurer. Back issues of *Iowa Bird Life* are available from Membership Coordinator Cecille Thompson 7503 Wildflower Ct, Johnson, IA 50131 (cecillethompson@gmail.com).

INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS: Original manuscripts, notes, letters (indicate if for publication), editorials, and other material relating to birds in Iowa should be sent by e-mail attachment in Microsoft Word to editor at vistesparrow@gmail.com. Research manuscripts should include abstract, introduction, study area, methods, results, discussion, and literature cited sections and will be sent for peer review. Accepted manuscripts will be published promptly depending on space available.

Photos and graphics: Submit only original, unsized, and unenhanced photos in your camera's JPEG (*.jpg) format. Photos must be 300 dpi at the size they will be printed (6-1/2" wide by 6-1/2" high for the cover and various smaller sizes inside), so setting your camera to its highest possible resolution is recommended. The editor will do any resizing and enhancing required because any previous adjustments to the photos may make them unusable. Submit photos and graphics as e-mail attachments. Photos and captions should be emailed to IBLPhotos@iowabirds.org.

Deadlines for submission are 1 January for winter issue (Vol. xx[1]), 1 April for spring issue [2], 1 July for summer issue [3], 1 October for fall issue [4]. Send seasonal field reports to field reports editors by deadlines listed on inside front cover.

I.O.U. WEB SITE: <www.iowabirds.org>, Ann Johnson, Webmaster

IOWA RBA: John Bissell (john.annabissell@gmail.com)

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT: Deadline for receipt of reports is 15 January. For forms and instructions, contact Christopher J. Caster, 1813 Liberty Lane, Coralville, IA 52241 (cjcaster@q.com).

BIRD SIGHTINGS: Subscribe at <www.iowabirds.org>

ADDRESS CHANGES: Update your on-line profile at <www.iowabirds.org> or send address and e-mail changes to Membership Coordinator Cecille Thompson, 7503 Wildflower Ct., Johnston, IA 50131 (cecillethompson@gmail.com).

FRONT COVER PHOTO: Prairie Warbler, Shimek State Forest, *Lee*, 6 Jul 2018. Photograph by Brandon Caswell, Marion, IA.

BACK COVER PHOTO: Whooping Cranes, *Franklin*, 14 Jul 2018. These are from the experimental breeding population in Wisconsin that have been found in Iowa more frequently in recent years. Photograph by Bruce G. McKee, Mason City, IA.

LAYOUT: Douglas Chapman, Sioux Falls, SD
PRINTER: Larson Printing, Mason City, IA

CONTENTS

Update from the Publications Committee
by *Ann M. Johnson* 141

Field Reports–Summer 2018
by *James J. Dinsmore* 142

Fall 2018 Meeting Summary
by *Pip Fisher* 161

Official Checklist of Iowa Birds 2018 Edition
by *Ann M. Johnson* 165

Iowa Ornithologists' Union Business Meeting
by *Sharon Bauer* 184

Iowa Ornithologists' Union Board of Director's Meeting
by *Sharon Bauer* 186

Fifty Years Ago in *Iowa Bird Life*
by *James J. Dinsmore* 188

Index
by *James J. Dinsmore* 189